



Achieving Excellence Together

# GROBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## NEWSLETTER

### David Wilson opens the new Construction Centre



David Wilson (3rd in from the right) pictured with staff and students involved in the new Construction Centre

On 28 January 2014 a new Construction Centre funded by the David Wilson Foundation opened at Groby Community College.

The new centre is designed to help students develop basic construction skills in partnership with Leicester College where expert teaching and progression routes at post 16 will help support those students wishing to access construction apprenticeships.

The practical skills developed at the centre are further enhanced by high quality teaching in literacy and mathematics which will prepare students well for future qualifications and life long learning.

The new construction centre has been made possible by an **£80,000 donation from the David Wilson Foundation**. Teaching in the centre commenced at the start of January 2014 where students are developing skills in the three main trades – bricklaying, plumbing and carpentry – in a realistic working environment with all of the tools and equipment linked to each trade available to them.

From September 2014 the centre will provide access for up to 50 students each year. Vocationally based courses delivered by the centre include BTEC Construction courses, with students taught by staff from Leicester College. It is expected that the centre will be used by students across the campus at both KS3, 4 and 5.

Endorsing the new centre, David Wilson said: "A key aim of the David Wilson Foundation is to help young people acquire construction skills for their future. This new Construction Centre is the perfect example of that aspiration in action, giving young people an ideal introduction into the construction industry and the skills needed to succeed."

Commenting on the future success of the centre, Ms Varnam, Groby Community College's Curriculum Leader for Flexible Learning said: "The grant from the David Wilson Foundation has given the students who need it most on our campus an exciting opportunity to follow a programme in construction, which will play a part in significantly engaging those students who find it hardest to secure proper progression routes at college and long term employment."

Not only will students develop knowledge and understanding as they work towards their qualifications, but they will also gain skills that will prove invaluable in their future careers. We are so very grateful to The David Wilson Foundation in helping to make this Construction Centre a reality. This opportunity will help students to gain a real insight into the world of work and will help to provide them with relevant skills which will support them in securing long term jobs and a prosperous future.

David Wilson, CBE, DL established The David Wilson Foundation to support young people through education. Specifically the Foundation helps young people overcome barriers to succeed, develop skills in the construction industry and achieve their potential for a successful working life. (More pictures on page 3)

**Mr Coles, Principal**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### Champions are made not born

Thank you to all of our year 11 and 12 students who have approached the recent mock exams with such maturity. Our mock exam results day for year 11 will take place on 5 February in order to give the students a true understanding of how it will feel in August when they receive their envelope. We will be following up closely with some students who need to push themselves harder and will be inviting some parents/carers into college to discuss how their child can maximise progress.

Effort was the theme of our assemblies at the start of the Spring Term. I challenged all of our students to think along the lines of the former Table Tennis gold medalist Matt Syed who believes that 'champions are made not born.' He states that to label someone as gifted or a prodigy means that it underestimates the sheer amount of hard work that goes into being successful.

At Groby we believe in 'achieving excellence' and we have set out clearly in our vision statement that **all** young people, through the right level of challenge and support, can achieve their potential. I believe that if everyone puts in the maximum amount of effort and purposeful practice then they can achieve whatever they set their mind to.

This does not mean that we don't have challenge those who

master a skill or a subject quickly. What we do is make sure that certain students can access the higher-level concepts and ideas at a faster pace than those who need more time to practice the basics. The challenge for us as a college comes in making sure that all students put in the necessary effort, hard work and practise at the right time. We can only achieve this goal if the mindset is right. In other words every student must believe they can succeed if they work hard enough.

To support the idea that effort can beat talent, we have further extended the support we give to students. The extended support programme is now open to year 10 and 11 students. Most subject areas have an extended programme running beyond 3.10pm which is published on the website. In order to support our students in their efforts, the college now runs late buses leaving at 4.15pm on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. I encourage all students to make use of this extra provision in order to master their subjects and I request that our parents/carers challenge their children to make use of the extra provision available.

Good luck to all of our students sitting exams this year; the hard work starts now!

**Mr Coles, Principal**



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## SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Our college feels it is of the utmost importance to have good systems for protecting children and safeguarding their welfare throughout all the activities which the college undertakes. This means that staff and volunteers must be alert to possible concerns about every student, and to report these in a proper fashion. The college has a safeguarding and child protection policy; parents may request a copy of this.

### It is important for parents to be aware that:

- Staff and volunteers in the college have a duty to report concerns about a child, whether this means the child may be in need of additional support or help of some kind or whether it is thought that a child may have been abused or be at risk of abuse.
- There are four categories of abuse: physical, sexual, emotional, neglect.
- In some cases the college is obliged to refer children to children's social care staff, for children to be assessed for their needs or if an investigation into possible child abuse is required. In many cases there will already have been discussions between college staff and the parents of the child, and the situation and concerns will not be a surprise to the parents. However, parents may not be told that the college has referred their child to children's social care if it is thought that this might put the child at risk.
- Children's social care tries to carry out its enquiries in a sensitive fashion. It has to gather information and generally it can be open with parents about the steps being taken.
- If you think your child may have been abused you should contact the children's social care office. If you think the abuse may have happened in college, contact the Principal or the Designated Senior Person for Child Protection, who is Mrs Evans, Assistant Principal. If you think your child has been hurt, arrange to visit your doctor. Comfort and reassure your child.
- If college staff need to express concerns about a child or refer a child to children's social care, it is understood that this can cause distress or anger for the child's parents.

For parents' enquiries please contact:  
**Mrs Viv Evans, Assistant Principal**



**MORE PHOTOS FROM THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF  
THE NEW CONSTRUCTION CENTRE: 28 JANUARY 2014**



# GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

Monday 16 December a group of 40 German Language students were able to travel to the famous Frankfurt Christmas Market, which takes place every year in Birmingham. The stalls are set up in the traditional style to replicate a market setting in Germany and many of the stall holders still hail from there. The students had the chance to use a bit of their German skills in buying gifts and local German food specialities. They were able to explore the various stalls and experience a small part of the German Christmas tradition. Students were most excited by the different food on offer, most notably the "Super-Dickmanns" a special type of marshmallow and chocolate biscuit!

**Miss Hammond, German Teacher**





# EXAM & KEY ASSESSMENT CALENDAR 2013 - 14

The main exam period is mid May to the end of June 2014 but other exams in Maths and Science take place at other times of the college year as well. The timetable will change to accommodate preparation, revision and exam warm-up sessions. We have revision tips and sample revision timetables on our college website.

All the key assessments and exam dates can be found on the college website:

[www.grobycoll.com](http://www.grobycoll.com)

## EXAM KEY DATES

**Summer external exams start 12 May 2014 and finish on 23 June 2014**

during this period **NO holidays** should be taken unless during the half term break.

Exam entry timetables will be issued to students during week commencing **10 February 2014**. Students are advised to check these carefully, in particular for entries to Higher or Foundation tiers for each subject (where applicable). The seated timetables will then follow after Easter.

**Art & Design practical exams will take place 31 March 2014 to 11 April 2014**

**Year 10 students will have a 'Mock Exam Week' 7 - 11 April 2014**

*Pease also check the exams & assessments calendar on the college website  
for a comprehensive breakdown of controlled assessments & mocks.*

### Exam Certificates

Exam certificates will be available for collection. More colleges and employers are asking to see certificates prior to offering places/positions, therefore please don't forget to collect them.

Due to replacement costs we DO NOT post certificates – it is your responsibility to collect them from the college during reception opening hours of 8.15am – 4.15pm.

Also, do you have any relatives who are ex Groby Students? We hold certificates dating back to 2007! To obtain older certificates call or email allowing 48 hours for collection.

Mrs Poulton, Exams Officer E: [exams@grobycoll.com](mailto:exams@grobycoll.com)



*Come & take part in our sponsored  
Fitness 'Marathon' Challenge*

**On Sunday 9th March 2014  
at Groby Community College  
10.00am - 4.00pm**

Download an information & registration pack from [www.grobycoll.com](http://www.grobycoll.com)  
(News & Events) or request one by email from [allisonpoulton@talktalk.net](mailto:allisonpoulton@talktalk.net)  
Registrations by no later than Friday 14 February 2014  
For further details call Allison Poulton on 07866 558988 or 0116 2392682

We are raising funds for:



**WE ARE MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT**  
Charity of the Year 2013

## WAR OF THE WORDS DEBATE



Emma Pye

A group of four students in year 13 French had the chance to test their debating skills in French against students from other schools. We were the only group of students representing a state school and our team came **second!**

It was a unique opportunity for students to compare their level of French with other students, re-use what they have learnt in class in a real situation and fight for their ideas.

During the day hosted at Ratcliffe College, we met Emma McClarking (an MEP from East Midlands) who talked about the importance of international communication. We also had a lecture about body language and how to structure your speech in order to engage with an audience. Each debate was a challenge in itself as the students had to debate in French.

This “War of the words” was an unforgettable experience for Groby’s team.

**Well done GIRLS!**

Miss Sanchez, French Teacher



Mollie Reynolds



Eleanor Ormerod



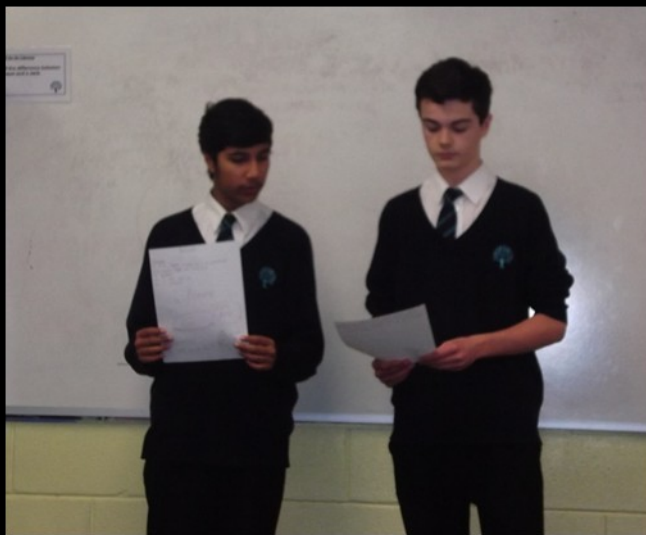
Becky Ford

## GLOBAL ENTERPRISE WEEK

Year 10 & 12 students took part in the international Enterprise Week in November. The winning teams from each class were then put through to a final where they pitched their ideas to Mr Bugh and Mr Coles. Both groups, La Pomme and Rapture Rooms were very impressive and their ideas caused our judges to deliberate for quite some time before finally choosing a winner – La Pomme - for their pie restaurant idea using locally sourced produce.

**Congratulations to La Pomme (Izaak Makwana & Jake Spriggs-Moore pictured below left)**

Mrs Bryan, Lead Teacher for Business





## BIG BROTHERS AND BIG SISTERS AT GROBY



Big Brothers and Big Sisters is a successful peer mentoring group within the college. The training students who attend one lunch time a week cover many topics that young people may come across during their teenage years. Once our training is complete we team up with the year 9 transition group to build positives for when they attend the College after the summer.

All guidance and wellbeing of the Peer Mentors is over looked by **Mrs Bee; Assistant Head of House for Bardon-Briggs**

## GENEROUS GROBY STUDENTS



Last year students at the college raised a staggering **£2,953** for fourteen different charities including:

- Comic Relief **£1089.11**
- Children in Need **£969.59**
- Macmillan Cancer Research **£154.94**
- Wishes 4 Kids **£119.39**
- The Eve Appeal **£117.08**

The fundraising activities were student-led and included non-uniform days, cake sales, raffles, busking at lunchtime. Generally these were promoted in assemblies, messages included in the daily student bulletin and posters displayed around the college.



In addition, **sixty shoe boxes** were filled and sent by groups of students in support of 'Operation Christmas Child'. This was led by a member of staff and promoted through Life Skills lessons and the tutor programme.

Fifteen students also spent the year organising different fundraising activities to each raise £3,500 to enable them to take part in a Camps International visit to Tanzania where they spent time helping out, on a voluntary basis, with different projects to help improve the quality of life for local residents.

This year we are hoping to do even better and after a highly successful Children in Need fundraising day during which **£1,034.20** was raised, the signs are very promising!

Mrs Evans  
Assistant Principal - Student Wellbeing



# OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

We are very proud of our students and visitors to the college regularly report very favourably on their experiences of meeting with them. **In our most recent Ofsted report (February 2013), inspectors stated that our students are 'friendly, polite and behave in a supportive, mature and responsible manner'.**

The Autumn Term is always a challenging one as year 10 students settle into their new learning environment and year 11 students cope with the pressure of preparing for their forthcoming external examinations. The first term is also the longest term – 16 weeks in total and is often the term when students and staff struggle to fight the various sickness bugs which are prevalent at this time of year.

We are keen for our students to feel that their hard work and commitment are recognised and rewarded. 'Outstanding' certificates have been issued and a series of special House assemblies held to celebrate some of their outstanding successes. Unfortunately there are too many students to mention by name, but here is an overview of the number of our KS4 students issued with certificates.

## Outstanding Behaviour

**221**

of our KS4 students  
(no sanctions issued for  
infringements to our  
behaviour expectations)

## Outstanding Progress

**203**

of our KS4 students  
(on or above target grade  
in all subjects, on reports)

## Outstanding Attitude to Learning

**150**

of our KS4 students  
(outstanding (1) in all  
subjects, on reports)

## Outstanding Attendance

**100**

of our KS4 students  
(100% attendance for  
the Autumn Term)

Students who make an impressive effort in a lesson / sporting activity / college event or in supporting other students are issued with House points and at the end of term we reward the top 30 KS4 students for **Outstanding Commitment**.

### Outstanding Commitment : GOLD x 8 students

Taylor Gilbert, Lauren Payne, Charlotte Poole, Lucy Poyser, Saarah Razak, Owen Scott, Mackenzie Thomson & Hope Trigg.

### Outstanding Commitment : SILVER x 11 students

Danny Bray, Amy Cawrey, Sam Cooper, Becky Green, Angel Harlow, Izzie Hunnybun,  
Jessica Mann, Amy-Kate Stevens, Mollie Toon, Jade Vann & Nicholas Wilson.

### Outstanding Commitment : BRONZE x 11 students

Harry Dunn, Beth Heafford, Sadie Hurst, Mary Koko, Bradley Langley, Jake Merriman,  
Ellie Spencer, Aaron Symes-Goodman, Caitlin Taylor, Callum Weaver & Nicola Wootton.

### Students who achieved 4+ Outstanding certificates also received a Principal's Award certificate.

The 7 students in year 11 who achieved this are Cian Bhandal, Alexander Claire,  
Hannah Cox, Matthew Hiscocks, Rebekah Hiscocks, Connor Tebbatt and Nicola Wootton.  
The 16 students in year 10 are George Cardinale, Amy Cawrey, Sam Cooper, Harry Dunn, Lucy Fletcher,  
Rebecca Fletcher, Taylor Gilbert, Chloe Hauton, Ellie Jones, Georgia Mallinder, Mollie Parr,  
Danielle Robertshaw, Caitlin Taylor, Rowan Taylor, Mackenzie Thomson and Hope Trigg.

## Congratulations to all students who received a certificate!

We are planning to hold a prize draw at the end of the academic year to reward our **OUTSTANDING** students and are currently approaching local businesses to ask if they would be willing to make a contribution.

If you are able to support us with this, please contact Mrs Howard [howard@grobyscoll.com](mailto:howard@grobyscoll.com)

Mrs Evans

# PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

## Year 11 mocks and subject evening

During the week beginning 13 January year 11 students sat mock exams. Students will receive written confirmation of their results on mock results day, 5 February. We would encourage parents to discuss these results with their child. If there are any major concerns parents will have the opportunity to discuss them with the subject teachers at the parents evening on 6 February.

## Year 10 exam week and targets grades

Year 10 students will be sitting internal examinations during the week beginning 7 April. There are revision tips and sample revision timetables on the college website that they can use to help support their preparation for these examinations. The outcomes of these examinations will help teachers to re-negotiate target grades with students. Currently the target grades for students are based on levels achieved at previous schools. These targets will not go down, but we would expect that for a number of our students we will be able to set even higher targets.

## Extended support sessions

Extended support continues to support the progress of students in both year 10 and 11. The extended support timetable can be found on the college website. We are now running late buses on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings to further support students who stay behind for extra support who take part in extra curricular activities.

For students to make the best progress with us it is important that we have good communication with parents. If you have any concerns about your child's progress please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mrs Hubbard, Deputy Principal (Raising Achievement)



## NUMBER DAY

**Number Day** took place within Groby Community College on Tuesday 3 December. This was seen as an opportunity for the whole school to come together to embrace and celebrate numeracy by taking part in activities throughout the day.

All students were given a 'Quiz Questions' sheet during tutor time and the answers to these were numbers on stickers that staff wore throughout the day (see pictures opposite). Students were encouraged to return these completed sheets to be entered into a prize draw. Congratulations to **Cole Brockbank (BRBC) in year 11 pictured below left** who was the lucky winner of a £10 Amazon voucher. **Well done!**



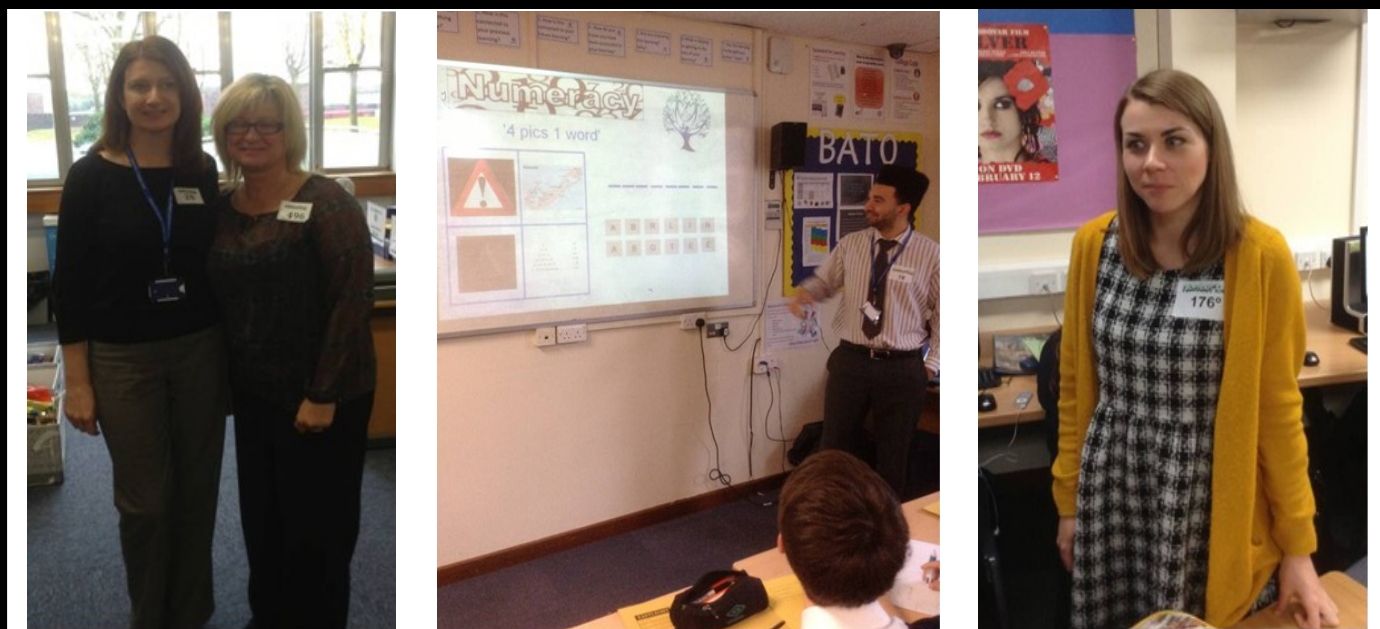
Winner: Cole Brockbank

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Members of staff pictured wearing their allotted number!



## LUCY WHITFIELD JUNIOR SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR 2013



The seventh Hinckley and Bosworth Sports Awards were held on Thursday 28 November attracting over 130 guests, many of whom were nominated for an award and deserved recognition for their volunteering, hard work, dedication, commitment, achievements and talent within their sport.

Lucy Whitfield pictured left receiving her Junior Sportswoman of the Year 2013 award from one of the special guests; Sophie Bradley an English International football defender who has played for England on over 20 occasions.

The Sports Awards has not only established itself as an annual event in the local sporting calendar, but is gaining more support and awareness from the community with an increasing number of nominations each year.

**Congratulations to Lucy!**

## NEW RECORDING STUDIO AT GROBY



During the Spring term of 2013, Mr Coles asked me to develop a Music Technology aspect to the college's Expressive Arts department. After a conversation also involving Mr Rayner; Curriculum Leader for Expressive Arts and Ms Bridge; Head of Music, the decision was made that the best way to get started was to build a recording studio. This would make us one of a few schools and colleges with an independent studio and improve our ability to record students work to a higher quality. Mr Coles found a charity that donates grants to groups and companies in Leicestershire, called the Thomas Herbert Smith Trust Fund who donate to good causes to develop or improve facilities for the community. Mr Coles and I put a proposal forward and we were delighted when we were given a grant of **£2,200.**

We were then presented with the challenge of sourcing the equipment and planning the studio layout. It was decided that we would adapt one of the existing music practice rooms by building a sound proofed control room inside and carpeting the floor, walls and ceiling to help with the acoustics.

The equipment was bought including a 16 channel digital mixer, high quality studio microphones and, with the assistance of the IT manager Mr Shellard, a Macbook Pro with ProTools studio recording software. Following some hard work we now have an operational studio. We have already begun to instruct BTEC Production Arts students on the usage of the equipment which will aid them for university and life within the music industry. It will be used to record exam work for students with some of the students doing these themselves. Our aim is to open the studio up to the community to allow local musicians the opportunity to experience recording in a studio for a cheaper fee than the high end studios. We also hope to work with local high end studios to build links and opportunities for the students and the community. This is just the beginning of our journey to developing a better music and music technology department but we are well on the road and will be constantly trying to improve our already excellent facilities. I would like to thank all the staff involved for their hard work, and the students for their enthusiasm for this project.

**Mr Coltman, Performing Arts Technician**

## MOVING TOGETHER WINNERS

Moving Together is a creative dance company based in Leicester that works closely with De Montfort University and the Square Mile project to deliver the Arts Award qualifications to young people. Year 10 student Georgina Payne is currently studying towards her Gold Arts Award which gives her 35 UCAS points to put towards university.

As part of the award all of our young people involved created a dance for film inspired by Belgian artist Anna Teresa De Keersmaeker, featuring lots of iconic landmarks in Leicester such as the Curve Theatre, DMU, the market place and King Richard the third statue. This film got through to the finals of Dance Your City 2013, a competition run by Dance Touring Partnership in conjunction with Dance4. Pictured right is Moving Together winners on the stage practicing! This was really hard because there was so much space that we had to fill, but such an amazing experience.



The group created a fantastic street dance production to perform in front of the public at Nottingham Broad Marsh shopping centre, and went onto win the competition! They had the opportunity to perform on stage at Nottingham Playhouse before the final production of 'Out of the Shadow' by Nobulus - a very well known street dance crew from Austria. This was such an amazing opportunity for the group, not only to perform on such a large stage before a famous dance troupe, but to have an audience who truly love dance!

The group are going on to perform at Leicester's Best Dance Crew, and at Mass Movement, both at Curve Theatre as part of the award!

**Georgina Payne (Year 10 student)**



# CINDERELLA



Written by Mr Rayner.

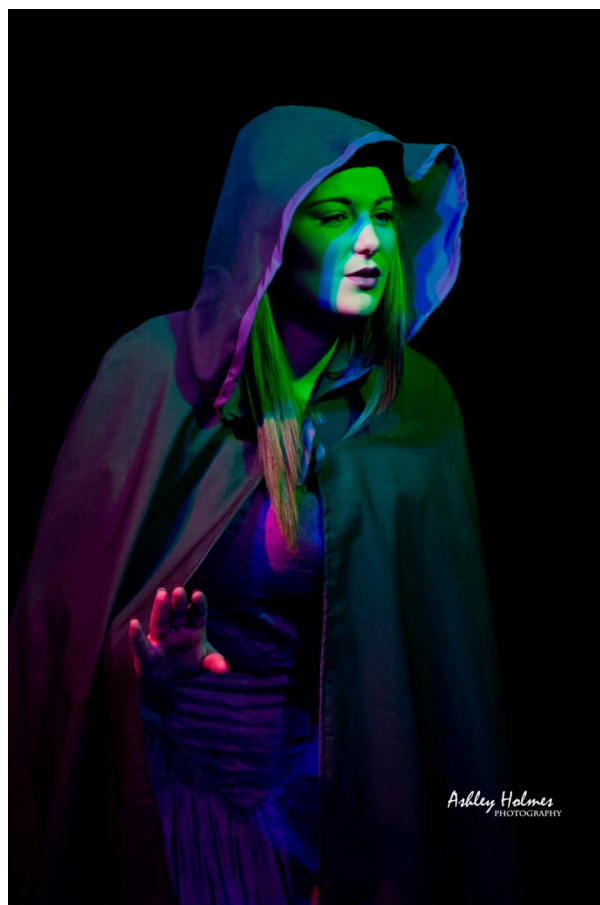
Cast members were;

**Ben Bull as Prince Charming, Becky Woolman as Dandini, Daniel Trigg as Buttons, Richard Goodchild and Ben Letts as the Ugly Sisters, Eleanor Hendry as the Fairy Godmother, and Olivia Carmichael as the title role, Cinderella.**

With the rest of the parts assigned, we even created our very own GCC Spice Girls!

**For the first time in 22 years the Christmas production was to be a pantomime and the show selected for Groby Community College immortality was 'Cinderella'.**

The cast rehearsed for 3 months including two hours every Monday night after school and gave up their own free time to ensure that this show was a success. Mr Morris directed, Mr Rayner choreographed and Mitch Tyrrell organised the live band and technical crew. At the three consecutive performance nights and an afternoon matinee the audience cried with laughter and joined in with the fun by singing along. **A big well done to all involved!**



Selection of pictures from the Cinderella Christmas show.



## SPANISH ENTERPRISE DAY

The year 10 Spanish students had an opportunity to do some Spanish cooking during their Spanish double lesson week commencing 16 December. As part of the scheme of learning we have been doing the topic of food, therefore it was an ideal opportunity. Students were asked to cook a Spanish dish and present it to the group in Spanish at the end of the lesson. Our year 10 hospitality group also got involved and had the task of assessing the group on general hygiene and health and safety.



Students were required to:

- Organise themselves into groups of 2 or 3
- Decide as a group what they were going to cook
- Agree on a recipe (In Spanish)
- Decide on a name for their restaurant
- Distribute the ingredient list, so each member of the group knew what they needed to bring

It was a great opportunity for students and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

**Many thanks to Mrs Brayne for allowing the students to use the cookery room!**

**Mrs Cornelius, Spanish Teacher**

**Comments from some year 10 students:**

We enjoyed the cooking lesson because it taught us about Spanish food. Also since we got to pick our food rather than being told what to cook we got the chance to use the internet to research what foods would be ideal for our team to cook. Our group cooked meat paella. It went really well and we ended up coming second. We enjoyed this experience because we had the chance to work in teams, and picking who was in our team...instead of working with your partner that you sit with. We feel that this opportunity taught us not only how to cook, but also how to speak in Spanish. We really feel that with the hospitality group that was assessing us helped too because they made us act more professional. Overall we enjoyed the experience and we hope that we can do more team related activities in the future! **Jack Allen**

On our Spanish Enterprise day, we learnt a lot of key Spanish cooking vocabulary. We had to make a Spanish meal for the restaurant that we created, it was very fun, and it was very independent; which was good because we could create something with no help. Some of the people had never cooked before, and it was a very good opportunity for them. Overall, The Spanish Enterprise Day was a great chance to get out of the classroom and do something different that we wouldn't have the opportunity to do. **Elliott Ryan**

Personally I thought that Spanish enterprise was a good opportunity to learn some key Spanish vocabulary and we learnt how to command a kitchen in the Spanish language. It was also fun and an altogether good time. Also some students got to work with some people that they normally would not. **Ben Craig**





## MATHS TRIP TO LONDON



48 students from year 10 and 11 travelled to the University of London on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December to take part in a "Maths In Action" day. During the day, a variety of well-known writers, academics and mathematicians spoke on a range of topics, about where maths is found in unusual situations. Topics included Maths in the Simpsons TV show; the workings of the Enigma code-breaking machine; rabbits' breeding patterns;

and how Pascal's Triangle relates to, well, just about everything.

The day was not quite what a handful of students expected, but everyone learned something, and on the journey back to Groby, all of us were treated (?) to a serenading of Christmas Carols by the lads on the back row...an unforgettable experience for all concerned!

Later this term, a trip is hopefully running to Nottingham to hear a similar set of talks...details to follow very soon.

Mr Maynard, Maths teacher

## LEICESTER CROWN COURT



On Wednesday 8th January I took a group of year 13 Sociology students to the Leicester Crown Court. The visit runs alongside the criminal justice system topic within the Crime and Deviance Unit. On arrival, we were given a talk on the rules of viewing cases in court followed by a lengthy discussion with one of the crown court judges.

Once completed, we spent the day viewing various court cases and observing important court proceedings such as the swearing in of a witness and cross-examination by both the defence and prosecution barristers.

This was a fantastic opportunity that enabled students to not only see the layout and procedures of a courtroom but also gave them an insight into how the theory and ideas we look at in Sociology are applied to real-life criminal cases.

Mr Ryman, Subject Leader Sociology



## FASHION SHOW

Thursday 27th March 2014

7.00pm - 10.00pm at Athena, Leicester

*Are you looking for a night of inspiration and enjoyment?*

*Do you want to be amazed by young talent?*

Join us on the evening of March 27th and celebrate the creative garments and choreographed routines that have been designed by the students from your college.

This event is fun, energetic and we can ensure that you will have a great time supporting your fellow classmates.

**A special guest will also be joining on the night to help celebrate our night!**

**It really does promise to be a night not to be missed!**

**TICKETS ARE £6 AND AVAILABLE FROM: MRS BEESTON IN TEXTILES**

LEBC, Ashcroft House, Ervington Court, Meridian Business Park, Leicester LE19 1WL Tel: 0116 240 7000 Fax: 0116 240 7000

Sponsored by:



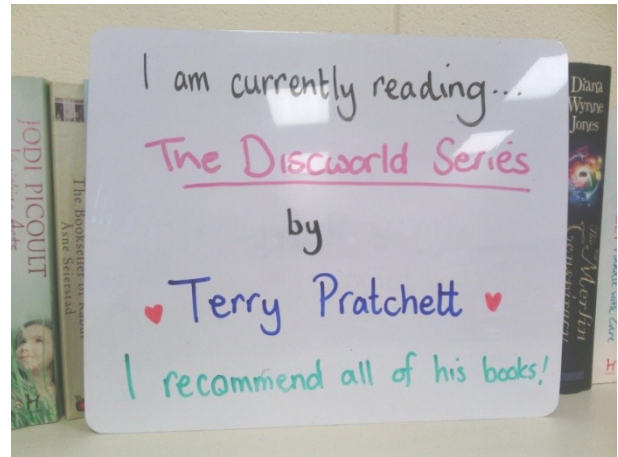
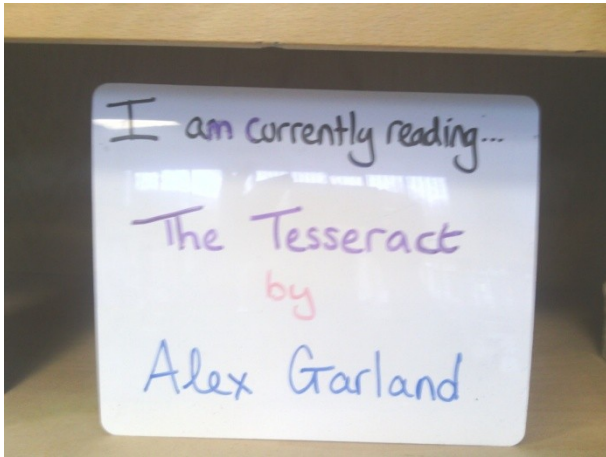
George.



## LITERACY ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

**Extended pieces of writing** are marked for literacy across the college. This means that students are consistently being reminded of how to punctuate, spell and use grammar correctly across all subject areas. The same marking abbreviations are used by all teachers. Students are familiar with these as they are in the student planners as well as being displayed on posters in classrooms. Improving literacy skills not only help students pass exams, but the ability to be clear and articulate when writing and in speech is an important skill for life.

**Teachers are sharing** what they are reading on easily updateable whiteboards in classrooms and plenty of lively conversations have been overheard about whether the first book in a particular series is better than the second, or if a writer's foray into young adult fiction is as successful as their work intended for older readers. Students have been recommending books to teachers too – all really positive developments in encouraging wider reading and discussion around books we are enjoying.



## FACULTY OF ENGLISH FILM AND MEDIA

**Whether to engage a private tutor** for your children is often a question parents ask themselves at this time of year when the exam period is just around the corner. Our advice would be to speak to your child's teacher first. This is the person that knows your child best on an educational basis and knows exactly what they need to do to continue to improve their work and have the best opportunity to achieve the best grades possible. As well as the specialist subject knowledge of the texts, teachers know what the exam board expects from students in the exams.

**As well as support in the classroom through teaching, marking and oral feedback, there is other support available:**

- Lunchtime tutoring arranged on an individual basis
- After school revision and support sessions – the current English programme runs on Thursday after college until Easter
- Extra marking of practice essays
- Post 16 mentors – students who went through the same exams one or two years before
- Advice on revision guides – hard copies and on-line (GCSE Bitesize, for example)

**Think of further support parents/carers could provide too:**

- Make sure your child has a quiet space to complete homework and revision where they won't be interrupted
- Reinforce the point that phones, iPods, iPads, Playstations, TV etc are unnecessary distractions when trying to revise
- Check that 'cramming' isn't happening! Regular 30 minute sessions is far better than three or four hours of panic the night before an exam
- Importantly, give your child the opportunity to take some responsibility and plan their own revision timetable to focus on areas they know they are weaker at



**Mrs Bellamy**  
Curriculum Leader for English, Film and Media  
Assistant Principal for Literacy

**Year 12 student Joe Boden working with  
a small group of year 11 students**



# TEACHING LIFE SAVING SKILLS TO ALL TEENAGERS



English former rugby union player Martin Johnson CBE, Dr Doug Skehan, Dr Mike Ferguson and Mr Charles Poole visited Brookvale and Groby Learning Campus on Tuesday 3 December 2013 to promote their campaign to get a defibrillator into every secondary school in Leicester and Leicestershire, and to teach life saving skills to **ALL** teenagers in Leicester and Leicestershire secondary schools as well.

This campaign is a joint project with the Joe Humphries Memorial Trust and Leicester's hospitals and is being led by Dr Doug Skehan from Glenfield Hospital.

Students were interested to hear that Martin Johnson is backing this campaign partly because he knew Joe Humphries and his family personally. Joe Humphries was a Leicestershire school pupil who sadly died last year as a result of cardiac arrest.

Dr Doug Skehan highlighted to some of Brookvale High School and Groby Community College students (pictured above) that in the UK we only save a third of those who could be saved by emergency action, and we would be able to improve survival rates by teaching life saving skills in school that will last a life time. This is the first such project in the country and could become a blueprint for other counties to follow.

Ambassadors from all Leicester and Leicestershire schools will be invited to attend a launch event at the Leicester Tigers ground on 28 February 2014.

Thank you to all our students who took part and thank you to Dr Doug Skehan, Martin Johnson and the team.

**Brookvale and Groby Learning Campus**



## NATIONAL SPACE CENTRE ASTRONAUT VISIT

Thanks to generous support from Lloyds TSB, the National Space Academy allocated a limited number of free places to regional schools to be in the audience at the National Space Centre for the visit of the world famous Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield on Friday 13 December.

The three students selected were;  
**Toby Crook, Siobhan Smith and Josh Lomas.**

**Mrs Woolhouse, Physics Teacher**

# ANTI-BULLYING AT GROBY

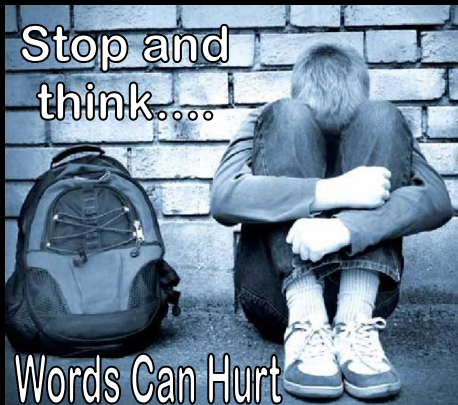
The college prides itself on having a very robust anti-bullying policy and procedures in place to support and educate students. Every student has the right to come to college and feel safe. The latest parental and student questionnaires carried out in college support this; indicating that **98% of parents feel their child is safe at school and 94% of students agree.**

Although instances of bullying are rare, we appreciate that there may be occasions when a student could be affected by bullying as either a victim or bystander. To support our students and parents/carers, the college has implemented a number of strategies for concerns to be reported.

Students can approach any member of college staff or report directly to the Student Wellbeing Team. Sometimes students may prefer to report issues anonymously and can use either the 'I Care Card' in the library, send a message to the 'Anti-Bullying Text Line' or email the college at the following address [antibullying@grobycoll.com](mailto:antibullying@grobycoll.com). The Big Brother and Big Sister peer mentors are always available to support fellow students.

The college has worked very hard over recent years to gain a number of awards in recognition of the good work of both staff and students at the college towards Anti-Bullying – The Leicestershire Beyond Bullying Award and the Enhanced Healthy Schools Award for Social and Emotional Wellbeing. We are currently working towards a National Bullying Award with the 'Bullying Intervention Group'.

If you have any feedback or would like to discuss anything regarding Anti-Bullying please contact the Anti-Bullying co-ordinator Mrs Meadowcroft here at the college.



Groby College  
Anti-Bullying  
Text Service

**07960  
443122**



**Mr Chris Hannaford**  
Member Governor

## GOVERNOR PROFILE

I retired from teaching at Groby Community College in 2012 and have remained in contact with the school ever since. Sometimes teaching and helping with school trips but mostly working with the College's Young Enterprise Teams. I am pleased to have joined the Governing Body in November 2013.

My interest in Education has continued. I currently tutor Post Graduate training teachers at the University of Leicester and believe that my work with these future teachers has been enhanced through being in touch with the realities of school life at Groby College.

As a member of the Governing body of the College I see my role as contributing to and ensuring the best possible educational provision for all the young people who attend the school and to support the Principal and staff in achieving this goal.

**Current activity:**

- Teaching and Learning committee
- Link Governor to English, Film and Media





## UNIFORM - DRESS CODE

The following link is a reminder to all Parents/Carers of Groby Community College's uniform specification for their child:

<http://www.grobycoll.com/index.php/home/students/uniform>

Here you will find specific links for both year 10 & 11

Parents/Carers can order their child's uniform following the link below to the 'Your School Uniform' website: <http://www.yourschooluniform.com>

For Groby Community College's Post 16 dress code please use the link below:

<http://www.grobycoll.com/index.php/post-16/dress-code>

## TRAFFIC SAFETY ON CAMPUS

In order to keep the campus as safe as possible for students, Parents/Carers are reminded they are not allowed on campus with a vehicle to collect their son/daughter until 3.20pm to allow time for the buses to leave the site. However, please be considerate of access and safety for local residents and students leaving the campus when parking on external roads.

We do have secure cycle shelters and encourage students to choose the healthier option of walking or cycling to school where possible.

**The safety of your child is our main priority.**

Mrs Hollingshead, Business Manager

## NEW GUIDELINES RE HOLIDAY TAKEN IN TERM TIME

New government guidelines, which came into effect on 1 September 2013, prevent Headteachers from granting any leave of absence during term time, unless there are exceptional circumstances. A family holiday during term-time does not fall under the category of 'exceptional circumstances' and we are therefore unable to grant leave of absence for a family holiday request.

**Should parents disregard this decision and the student has absences recorded as a result of an unauthorised family holiday, Leicestershire County Council will be advised of this matter and will be requested to issue Penalty Notices in line with their policy.**

## PARENTS/CARERS' FORUM

Groby Community College hold parents/carers forums to support all parties through their child's time at the college.

The second session will take place at the college in the Learning Resource Centre on:

**Wednesday 5 February 2014 7.00pm - 8.00pm**

More information and dates for future meetings can be found on the college calendar at the college website:

[www.grobycoll.com](http://www.grobycoll.com)

If you would be interested in joining us but could not attend the first meeting please contact Mrs Anderson: [canderson@grobycoll.com](mailto:canderson@grobycoll.com)

## PE NEWS



### U16 Rugby (team photo above)

The U16 rugby team played in the first round of the county cup at John Cleveland College. We were drawn against a strong John Cleveland team in the first game and Mattie Lewis scored an early breakaway try to take the lead. However, it was one-way traffic after the opening score and John Cleveland ran out comfortable winners 32 points to 5. This took us into a 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> playoff with Bosworth Academy which Groby won 34-17. Josh Mason, Gareth Plumridge, Dan Simandi-Curtis, Adam Flavell, Ali Maimoon and Mattie Lewis scored tries, with Mattie Lewis adding 2 conversions. We have been drawn in the quarter finals of the County Cup against Beauchamp College, due to be played on 30 January 2014.



The **U15 rugby team** have a County Cup quarter final against Lutterworth in February. **Good luck!**

**Mr Lord, Assistant Curriculum Leader for Expressive Arts**

## REVISION SESSIONS; SOCIAL SCIENCES & GEOGRAPHY

### AS Psychology

Weds 5 February – Disruption of Attachment

Weds 12 February – Day Care

### A2 Psychology

Monday 3 February – Biological Rhythms and Disruption of Biological Rhythms

Monday 10 February – Nature of Sleep, Functions of Sleep and Disorders of Sleep

Monday 31 March – Clinical Characteristics of Depression, Issues around Diagnosis

Monday 7 April – Biological and Psychological Explanations and Treatments of Depression

Monday 28 April – The Application of Scientific Method in Psychology and Designing Psychological Investigations

Mon 12 May – Data Analysis and Reporting on Investigations

### AS Sociology

Families and Households – Wednesday after school (3:15-4:15) from now until the exam.

### A2 Sociology

Power and Politics – Mondays after school (3:15-4:15) from now until the exam.

### Year 11 Geography

Every Thursday lunch time from now until the exam.



# THE GREAT GERMAN BAKE OFF



On the 11<sup>th</sup> December, I organised the Great German Bake Off as one of my projects as a German Youth Ambassador. Both staff and students took part with a variety of traditional German goodies being baked ranging from a gingerbread house to cinnamon pretzels to a sunken apple cake. Within the two hour time slot, whilst listening to a few German songs, everyone baked something that was beautifully presented and tasted great! Our judges; Mr Coles, Miss Hammond, Ms Beeston and Frederick – our German language assistant – had a very hard time separating the baked goods due to the competition being of such a high standard! However, in the end Emily Woodall in year 10 was crowned the winner! Emily impressed the judging panel with a range of delicious traditional German biscuits. Well done to Emily and to everyone else who participated for making the event such a great success! **Emma Pye (Year 13)**



## YOU CAN STILL APPLY FOR YEAR 10 ADMISSION AUGUST 2014

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND ADVICE PLEASE CONTACT THE COLLEGE: 0116 287 9921



The first term for Post 16 students went well. Year 12 students are starting to settle in and their week of mock exams has now been completed and the results have been given out. Year 13 students completed their University applications. The majority of year 13 students who applied through UCAS have already received offers from their chosen universities. Many of these students this term will be putting together portfolios and attending interviews to secure further offers

for their preferred courses.

This term the focus for tutor time will be preparing for General Studies which we expect all year 12 and many year 13 students to be taking. Students can further prepare themselves by keeping up-to-date of current affairs by regularly watching the news and reading newspapers.

**Miss Wood**  
**Head of Post 16**

## KEY DIARY DATES

- Monday 6 January • College open
- Monday 13 - Friday 17 January • Year 11 MOCK week
- Friday 31 January • Year 11, 12 & 13 interim reports available online via Parental Online Access
- Wednesday 5 February • Parents/Carers' Forum 7pm - 8pm
- Thursday 6 February • Year 11 subject reports afternoon/evening 3.45pm - 7.15pm
- Friday 14 - Saturday 22 February • Annual USA ski trip

### MONDAY 17 - FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY MID TERM BREAK

- Monday 24 February • College open
- Monday 24 - Friday 28 February • German trip
- Thursday 6 March • Year 12 Subject reports afternoon/evening 4pm - 7pm
- Thursday 13 March • Year 10 annual full reports available online via Parental Online Access
- Thursday 20 March • Year 10 subject reports afternoon/evening 3.45pm - 7.15pm
- Thursday 20 March • Year 11 & 13 group leavers photos
- Friday 4 April • Year 11, 12 & 13 interim reports available online via Parental Online Access
- Monday 7 - Friday 11 April • Year 10 exam week
- Wednesday 9 - Thursday 10 April • BTEC Music recitals

### MONDAY 14 - FRIDAY 25 APRIL EASTER BREAK

- Monday 28 April • College open
- Monday 5 May • May Day; college closed (Bank Holiday)
- Friday 9 May • Year 10 interim reports available online via Parental Online Access
- Wednesday 14 May • Parents/Carers' Forum 7pm - 8pm

### MONDAY 26 - FRIDAY 30 MAY MID TERM BREAK

- Monday 2 June • College open

## SUMMER TERM DATES SUMMARY 2013-14

Open	Monday 28 April 2014
Bank Holiday; May day	Monday 5 May 2014
Mid-Term Break	Monday 26 to Friday 20 May 2014
Close	Friday 11 July 2014 @ 1pm (in line with Brookvale)

## REPROGRAPHICS SERVICE

Reprographic service available here at Groby Community College include:

- Design work undertaken at very competitive rates
- Booklet maker
- Laminating (up to A3)
- Comb binding
- Large format colour printing up to A1

For more information contact:

**Mrs Tracey Jarvis Tel 0116 281 7002 or reprographics@grobyscoll.com**



**GROBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
Achieving Excellence Together