



Achieving Excellence Together

GROBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

Lucy Whitfield wins Karate Gold!



Lucy Whitfield
England
World Champion

A-Level student Lucy Whitfield represented England at the WIKF World Championships in Crawley at the end of September, coming away with a Gold medal in the Kata. Lucy, who won Sportswoman of the Year at last year's Sports Presentation Evening, has been working hard towards this event and it is a fantastic achievement to be crowned the world's best in her category. She has previously competed at the European Championships in Greece, winning a bronze medal in the team event. However, the experience of standing on the podium, wearing her Gold medal with 'God Save The Queen' playing, will take some beating.

Lucy is also training towards her 3rd Dan, which would make her one of the youngest 3rd Dan members of the WIKF, ever!

Well done Lucy!

Emma Pye – UK-German Youth Ambassador

This September Emma Pye (Year 13) applied to the UK-German Connection to become a UK-German Youth Ambassador. After writing a detailed and well-crafted application, she sent it off to London. Despite a very high volume of exceptional applications, we found out that she had beaten off the competition to secure one of ten places on the fully funded scheme. What an amazing achievement! Emma will now participate in a conference in London in October 2013 as well as a trip and conference in Berlin in July 2014. She will be working with other likeminded students from around the country as well as developing networks and partnerships with students from Germany. The main aim of the Ambassador role is to increase awareness of the benefits of studying the German language and Emma's passion for languages will certainly help her with this. We wish her luck with her endeavours and look forward to hearing about them throughout the year!

"I was so excited to find out that my application to be a UK-German Youth Ambassador had been accepted! I have always had a passion for languages and so this is a great opportunity for me to make a difference and encourage people to be more interested in both German language and culture. I have lots of ideas and I am currently in the process of trying to set up some links with Primary schools in the local area in order to organise some activity days based on celebrations in Germany. In terms of including students at the college both pre and post-16, I am hoping to set up links with a school in Germany with students contacting each other individually via emails or as a group by Skype in order to really encourage them to learn and practice some German! I am really looking forward to making the most of this opportunity and cannot wait to organise various other activities and events in the year ahead!"

"On the 25th October, I attended a seminar in London over 3 days which allowed me to meet my fellow ambassadors, both British and German, and develop my plans for the year in more depth with help from some of the leaders at UK-German Connection, the organisation who runs the scheme. The seminar took place in the former embassy of the German Democratic Republic and it was very full on from planning projects, to learning about each others' cultures, to enhancing organisation and leadership skills. I met many fantastic people and made some great connections with some of the German students and we've agreed to set up some links between our schools. In terms of my project plans I am hoping to run a series of workshops on both German language and culture in local primary schools. In College, I have decided that my first project will be to organise 'The Great German Bake Off'. Look out for more information on this soon!"



Emma Pye - pictured above

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Community Spirit at the college

As the year comes to a close, I would like to thank all students, staff and parents/carers for their continued hard work and support. Although there is much to be done before the end of term, I would like to wish you a peaceful and restful holiday.

As featured on the front page, it has been a term of great individual success with year 12 student Lucy Whitfield winning gold in Karate at the WIKF World Championship and Emma Pye becoming UK German Youth Adviser. We are extremely proud of both students for their individual success and for being such great ambassadors for our college.

Sporting and science ambassadors have also been at the forefront of work with the community over recent weeks. On 30 October nearly 200 students from our catchment primary schools visited the campus for a Sports Enrichment Day (see page 8 for more details). 9 post 16 Sports Leaders worked

with Year 9 students from Brookvale to lead a range of the sporting activities. The post 16 students included Helen Parr, Sagar Pandya, Charlotte Broad, Tom McGlinchey, Sam Burbidge, Ben Gilbert, Daisy Johnson, Georgie Stewart and Ellie Johnson.

Remember, remember the 5 November; for a group of young physicists from Kirby Muxloe primary school, they will do just that! 15 Year 6 students, led by a team from our science faculty and A Level science students, set off rockets and spent the afternoon learning about the chemical reactions. My thanks go out to the students and staff who led such an exciting afternoon.

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year

Thank you.

**Mr Coles
Principal**



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Safeguarding | 2 |
| Awards night | 3 |
| Exam key dates | 4 |
| Numeracy challenge | 4 |
| Grobby goes to Europe | 5 |
| Your Voice - feedback | 6 |
| Cinderella | 7 |
| Poppy wall | 8 |
| Eunoia | 8 |
| Literacy page | 9 |
| Flexible Learning News | 10 |
| Year 6 fire works day | 11 |
| Uniform - Dress code | 12 |
| Parents/Carers' Forum | 13 |
| Sports news | 14 - 15 |
| Key diary dates | 16 |

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**

A GLITTERING CELEBRATION OF STUDENT SUCCESS

On Thursday 27 September, 48 former Year 11 students were recognised for their success, hard work and wider contribution to the college.

This was the second Annual Student Awards to be held at the college. It was a tremendous celebration as the college recognised not only the academic excellence of people such as Phoebe Coleman and Callum Tebbatt (the highest achieving students of the year), but also individuals who had overcome adversity to complete some outstanding GCSE and BTEC results. Eve Radoja scooped three awards including the Pride of Groby trophy presented by Principal Robert Coles. Eve blossomed over the last two years to become a confident and articulate student.

The star of the evening was media personality, renowned gardening expert and former student Ady Dayman. Ady left the college in 2004 and has subsequently followed a career in radio and television as well as running a specialist chilli growing business. Ady wowed the crowd with memories of his time at the college and gave some personal advice to the students on how to succeed as they embark on the next phase of their education.

For a full list of the students who won awards and to view our gallery of pictures from the evening, please visit the college website.

The main award winners were as follows:



Top Achieving Girl - Phoebe Coleman
with 12 As and A*



Guest speaker - Mr Adrian Dayman



Top Achieving Boy - Callum Tebbatt
with 13 As and A*



Pride of Groby
Eve Radoja
(Sponsored by Mr Coles)



Most Improved Student
Joseph Mayes
(Sponsored by Mrs Di Robinson)



Extra-Curricular Award
Bronwen Turner
(Sponsored by Mr Chris Hannaford)



Excellence in Sport
Ellis Kube
(Sponsored by Mr Martyn Thompson)



Birch House winner
Shannon Hill



Bardon House winner
Lia Hatfield



Beacon House winner
Georgina Capewell



Broombriggs House winner
Michala Martin

A number of awards were given for the different subjects. These awards were presented by the Curriculum Leaders who were proud to congratulate the students who had achieved the most in their subject areas.

Well done to all of the students from the Class of 2013.

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.grobyscoll.com

EXAM KEY DATES

22, 26, 28 & 29 November 2013:

Language Speaking Exams for year 10 Fast Track French & year 11 French & Spanish students.

13 - 17 January 2014:

Year 11 MOCK exam week

Check out the exams & assessments calendar on the college website, as mentioned in the article above for a comprehensive breakdown of controlled assessments & mocks.

Exam Certificates

Exam certificates will be available for collection from **1 DECEMBER 2013**. 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@grobyscoll.com



Numeracy

CONGRATULATIONS to **Ben Felstead (BECW)** who won the Numeracy Challenge that was in the newsletter before half term. He was awarded with a £10 Amazon voucher.

You have another chance to win a prize during **World Number Day** on 3 December. More information will be given via your tutor.

ARE YOU UP FOR A NUMERACY RIDDLE?

Two fathers and two sons sat down to eat eggs for breakfast. They ate exactly three eggs; each person had an egg.

How is this possible?

Check if your answer is correct with your maths teacher.

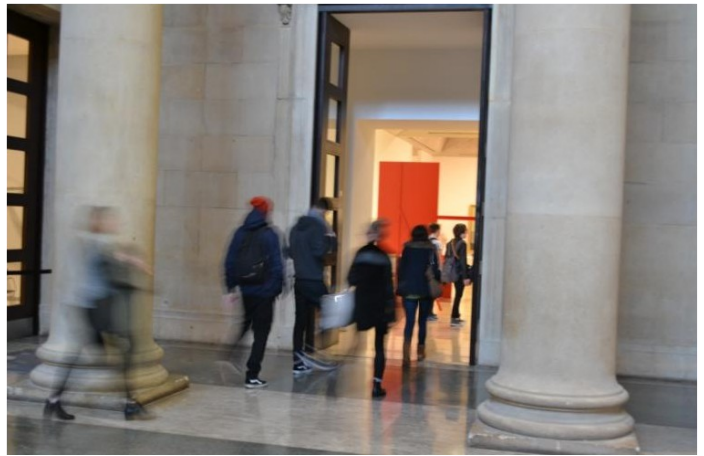
CURIOUS CALCULATIONS!

Enter the number **142, 857** into your calculator. Now multiply this by **2, 3, 4, 5, 6** and **7**.

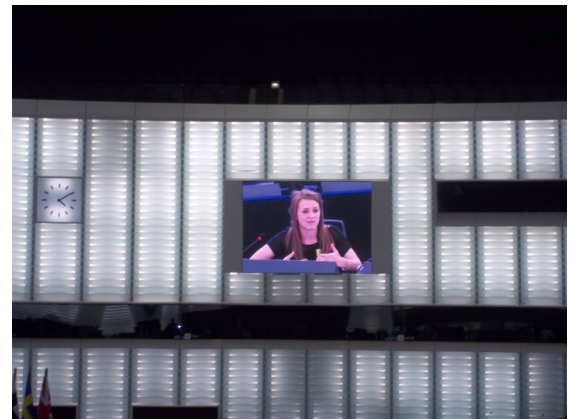
What do you notice?

ADT TRIP TO LONDON

A Level Photography, Art, Textiles and 3D Design students went on a trip to London to visit galleries and produce artwork related to the city. The students had the chance to visit the Victoria and Albert Museum, Tate Britain, British Museum, the National Portrait Gallery and other relevant sites.



GROBY GOES TO EUROPE



Four Year 13 A2 French students from Groby Community College, pictured above, have just returned from a three-day trip to Strasbourg, France, where they were lucky enough to attend *Euroscola*, an event for 400 European students. The event took place at the prestigious European Parliament, the home of important policy-making and decision-making at a European level.

Students listened to and debated with European officials and were able to simulate voting on key questions. The opportunity also arose for students to work in committees where they put forward their ideas and contributed to drafting a set of proposals based on issues such as the environment, immigration and the future of Europe. One student from Groby, Beckie Ford, was selected to present these proposals in front of the entire chamber (see picture top right). She rose to the challenge and presented a convincing argument, tackling any counter arguments with aplomb.

Students from Groby were joined by peers from Robert Smythe, Market Harborough and the Melton Sixth Form Centre. The trip was a great opportunity for students to develop their understanding of European institutions, as well as getting to practise their French and experience French culture.

SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE NEWS

Wednesday 6 November saw four year eleven students (Abbie Green, Anna Hibbitt, Alex O'Connor and Oliver Lawrence-Overy) travel to Nottingham University to take part in heats of the UKMT Senior Maths Team Challenge. They were the only team of year 11s present, with all of the other teams being made up of year 12 and year 13 students.

The purpose of the competition is to encourage mathematically able students to develop problem-solving skills and communication skills, as well as to have some fun with difficult questions. The competition is jointly

run by the UK Maths Trust and the Further Maths Support Network. The teams were faced with a timed group competition, followed by a "crossnumber" puzzle in two pairs, (where each pair was only allowed to see the across clues or the down clues). Finally, there was a team relay, where pairs had to solve a problem, and the answer to that problem was needed for the other pair to be able to start the next. Our team did very well, considering that many of the schools take the whole competition very seriously, running after-school lessons for the competing students.

This heat was won by Leicester Grammar School, with our team coming in 16th place, out of 20 schools altogether...a good achievement for our year 11 students against the older students from these schools – **well done!**

An example of the types of question being posed is below:

The equation $(x^2-2)^{(15+4x-3x^2)} - 1 = 0$ has six solutions.

Pass on the sum of the six solutions to the other pair.

Mr Maynard Smith
Mathematics Department

YOUR VOICE – PARENT/CARER FEEDBACK

We would like to thank the 309 parents and carers with children in year 10, 11, 12 and 13 for completing our annual questionnaire this term. We use the same questions that Ofsted use but our surveys generate a much larger and therefore more representative sample of parent/carer satisfaction. The key findings are as follows:

- **98%** said that their child was happy at the college (41% strongly agree).
- **91%** said that their child is making good progress (5% don't know).
- **91%** agreed that the college makes sure its students are well behaved (up 5% since 2012).
- **96%** of parents and carers either agreed that the college deals effectively with bullying or didn't know due to their child not having to deal with any incidents
- **92%** agreed that their child is taught well.
- **92%** of parents/carers agreed that they are kept well informed about progress. This has been a key focus for us over the last year with the introduction of half term reports and Parent Online Access. Satisfaction rates over progress information have risen by 4%.
- **98%** agree that their child is safe and well looked after (45% strongly agree). This high approval rate would be judged outstanding by Ofsted.
- **93%** agree that the college is well led and managed (up 7% in the last year).
- Approval over setting appropriate levels of homework has risen 7% to 88% (93% including don't know). We feel that the introduction of Show My Homework and the new student planner makes it much easier for parents and carers to monitor their child's homework.
- **96%** agreed that they would recommend the college to other parents (up 8% since 2012) with 41% strongly agreeing.

There were lots of positive comments about uniform, expectations, homework and standards of teaching. Overwhelmingly parents and carers are telling us that your child is happy and well settled in a positive learning environment.

Your feedback on areas for development:

- Further developing homework by raising awareness for parents and carers about the benefits of using Show My Homework (see page 7). If you have concerns about your child's homework then please either contact the subject teacher directly or the Head of Faculty via the website.
- Late buses: We are in regular contact with the bus companies that are supplied to the college in order to improve the service.
- Facilities at Post 16: We have an action plan in place for 2013-14 which will see a refurbishment of all Post 16 facilities including re-decoration, new furniture and an additional 25 computers by creating an independent study room. All work will be complete by Summer 2014.

Mr Coles
Principal

CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION

GROBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS PROUDLY PRESENTS

CINDERELLA



Photo by Ashleyholmesphotography.co.uk

Show Dates and Start Times

Wednesday 11th Dec:-
7:30pm

Thursday 12th Dec:-
7:00pm

Friday 13th Dec:-
6:30pm

Saturday 14th Dec:-
2:30pm Matinee

Adults £6, Concessions £4

Good discount for bookings over 10 people!

For tickets e-mail:-
rrayner@grobycoll.com

Or visit Performing Arts and ask a member of staff.

In aid of Groby Community College funds



KEEP TRACK OF ALL YOUR CHILD'S HOMEWORK AND DEADLINES

Since the introduction of Show My Homework at the start of this academic year I am pleased to inform you that more than 700 piece of homework have been uploaded onto the website.

We hope this service provides parents with an insight into the type of homework your child receives and how often it is set. More importantly, we hope it benefits your child by displaying all their homework and deadlines on one page, helping them to use their time more effectively and become more organised.

For parents who wish to take a more active role in their children's home learning, they can by having their own Show My Homework account. This allows parents/carers access to an overview of the homework set for their son/daughter in all their subject areas. We've given 'power' back to parents, they can now take a more proactive role in driving homework prioritisation, keeping tabs on homework without being intrusive.

Benefits for parents/carers:

- No login required – to view the college homework calendar <https://groby.showmyhomework.co.uk>
- Easy to use - It only take a couple of clicks to see the homework timetable for your child.
- View anytime - You don't have to wait until they arrive home, find out if they have homework the moment a teacher sets it.

If you require assistance using this service or would like to provide feedback, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Cornelius via email ccornelius@grobycoll.com

Eunoia

beautiful thinking

young
enterprise

Made to the highest standards, these handmade products make excellent gifts for yourself or others and are suited for people of all ages.

All our products are made to order by members of Eunoia with the aim of revamping vinyl records and creating bespoke products.

Record Bowl £5

Suitable for loose change, stationary, keys and sweets. Our record bowls are stylish and have many uses.



Record Clock £10

This record clock would look great in any modern day household

Record Cake Stand £15

Our flat pack, two tiered cake stand is the perfect necessity for every household.



Record Coasters £5 (pack of four)

These come in packs of four and are colour co-ordinated to match any room.

To receive an order form, please email Joe Boden at eunoiayoungenterprise@gmail.com

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!
YOU CAN STILL APPLY
FOR YEAR 10 ADMISSION
AUGUST 2014

For more information and advice please contact the college:

T: 0116 287 9921

POPPY WALL



The picture above displays the texts and letters year 10 students wrote to soldiers and veterans in honour of remembrance.

Miss Hammond

SPORTS ENRICHMENT DAY

Groby and Brookvale played host to a Sports Enrichment Day on 30 October 2013 involving several of the feeder Primary Schools; Elizabeth Woodville, Ratby, Martinshaw and Lady Jane Grey. Activities offered on the day were Tag Rugby, Football, Basketball, Netball and Uni-Hoc. All of the children had the opportunity to play all the sports throughout the day and were supported by Sports Leader's students from both Brookvale and Groby. Groby students took a lead with each activity, organising the Brookvale sports leaders and encouraging the participants. The feedback from the Primary Schools indicated that all students really enjoyed the day and that the event was a huge success. Well done to our Sports Leader's (see list below) who were a credit to the college.

Ellie Johnson, Tom McGlinchey, Helen Parr, Sagar Pandya, Ben Gilbert, Georgie Stewart, Daisy Johnson, Sam Burbidge and Charlotte Broad.

LITERACY ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Literacy is at the heart of education and literacy skills are essential for informed decision-making, personal empowerment and to the active participation in local and global social communities.

Even in the age of digital communications and rapidly advancing technology, basic literacy skills are still fundamental – after all, as the *EU High Level Report on Literacy* points out, ‘the digital world is centred around the written word’. At a time when reports show that 1 in 6 people in the UK struggle with literacy it is more important than ever to make sure that our young people leave college having been given every opportunity to develop themselves as literate, articulate – as well as numerate – adults.

The responsibility of teachers, in every subject area, is very clear: we recognise that as teachers *in* English, we are all teachers *of* English. Our Literacy Action Plan has a relentless focus on improving literacy skills for all our learners and a number of initiatives are already under way, including:

- all teachers are recommending books and subject relevant articles on white boards for students to see in the classroom
- selected students are working with our specialist SENCO team on literacy exercises during tutor time
- more than 20 post-16 Literacy mentors are working with students in English lessons to improve skills and boost confidence
- all classrooms have specially written spelling, punctuation and grammar guides for students to access independently, or guided by teachers, during all extended writing exercises
- all subjects are linked with a member of the English faculty for guidance and support across all literacy issues

At home, you can help by looking over homework – it isn’t just English exams where marks are awarded for spelling, punctuation and grammar. Ask your child if they have gone through their work again focusing on literacy. All students have a literacy guide in their English handbook which they should refer to.



CREATIVE WRITING OPPORTUNITIES



The creative writing after school class has been a great success with around 40 students taking part. Run by Miss Ross and Miss Nolan, students can either participate for enrichment purposes or there is the opportunity to achieve an A level at the end of the course. Students across all 4 years have enjoyed releasing their inner writer and produced some wonderful pieces, working collaboratively sharing their ideas and expertise. Miss Ross said “This has been one of the highlights of the academic year so far, it is great to see students across all years getting together, working together and creating something they can be proud of. “

Mrs Bellamy
Head of Faculty for English, Film and Media
Assistant Principal for Literacy

FLEXIBLE LEARNING NEWS



Allotment before (left)

Allotment after (below)

Thanks to a grant donated by the David Wilson foundation the allotment compound has been transformed over the summer. Now almost complete, the area has been developed to provide facilities to enable the college to deliver basic construction skills such as bricklaying, carpentry and painting and decorating as part of our Flexible Learning curriculum. In addition we now have 6 manageable raised beds with which to practise our horticultural skills and link growing food with cooking and eating it.



In September the year 10 Prince's Trust xl club once again ran a very successful **World's Biggest Coffee Morning** to raise funds for **MacMillan Cancer Support**. The students worked very hard preparing for and carrying out the event, raising the sum of **£87!** Thank you to all of the staff and students who supported the good cause on the day.



At the end of the summer term Year 10 students took part in a 6 week course provided by Keith Yate of Environmental Studies which took place in a wooded area of the school grounds. Supported by members of staff Mrs Salisbury and Mrs Shephard (also a qualified Forest Practitioner) students began to develop a Forest School site where we can practise teamwork skills, fire building, outdoor cooking and woodland crafts. We hope to be able to share this with local primary schools in the future.

Mrs Shephard
Senior HLTA



YEAR 6 FIREWORKS DAY SCIENCE FAIR GOES WITH A BANG!



Gifted year 6 pupils spent the afternoon of fireworks day making rockets and learning all about how fireworks are made. The 14 pupils from Kirby Muxloe Primary school were taking part in a special event at Groby Community College designed to challenge and enthuse gifted young scientists as part of Groby's Primary Liaison work.

The year 6 pupils started the afternoon off watching some spectacular demonstrations led by Mr Dixey. These included creating a wall of flame using milk powder, an exploding treacle tin and an ethanol powered rocket! By the end of this the Year 6 pupils were very excited to get some hands on Science work with Mrs Woolhouse and Mrs Gibson. The first task was to burn lots of different compounds to find out how fireworks get their amazing colours with copper compounds for blue and red and sodium compounds for red and orange. The pupils were helped in this by several of our Post 16 scientist from year 12.

Finally after a quick drink and a snack the students got to make their own rockets! Several different designs were put onto the rockets before we rushed outside to launch them. Our rocket fuel consisted of some water, a vitamin C tablet and a lot of enthusiasm! Each pupil had several goes at firing their rockets and several went straight up on to the roof!

After all of the excitement it was time to head back inside where Groby Principal Mr Coles presented each student with Gifted Scientist Certificate and a copy of the fabulous Science Museum book; 'How loud can you burp?' (106 decibels apparently). Mrs Tobin and the year 6 pupils thanked all of the Groby staff and said how much they had enjoyed it and everybody left on a real high saying how they could not wait to come again. Mr Kimber who organised the event said: "This kind of work is important, as Groby strives to become an outstanding school we want to share our excellent facilities and inspire the areas young people before they even come to our campus to learn". After the huge success of this event planning has already started for the next Primary visit to Groby Community College. **Mr Kimber, Assistant Principal**



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>

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD A HUGE SUCCESS AT GROBY AGAIN!



Groby Community College students have been working together in year 10 Life skills classes to collect Christmas presents to send to children in poor countries around the world.

Assistant Principal Mr Kimber said;
"The generosity of Groby students never fails to impress and we will have helped to make it a very special Christmas for lots of little boys and girls who otherwise would not have received anything for Christmas".

Special thanks to all who helped and Miss Wright for organising it.

ATTENDANCE AT GROBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

If you have any queries or concerns about your child's attendance please get in touch with us: Tel: 0116 287 9921

Mrs Lovell : Attendance Support Officer - ext 231 (see information below and picture insert)

Mrs Lee: Student Services Manager - ext 286

Mrs Howard: Admin Assistant - ext 269

Mrs Lovell has worked in the Attendance Team for more than 10 years. Her role has expanded to include attendance improvement, previously covered by the Attendance Service for Leicestershire County Council. As well as monitoring attendance, Mrs Lovell will be liaising with parents directly and meeting with you and students to support improvement in attendance and resolve issues. Occasionally she may arrange home visits to deal with non-attendance or may refer cases for prosecution. Please support the college by contacting Mrs Lovell to discuss any aspects of your child's attendance that is a concern.



Mrs Lovell is here to help you. alovell@grobycoll.com or absences@grobycoll.com

ALL STUDENTS SHOULD AIM FOR ATTENDANCE OF 100%

Children are at school for 190 days each year! That leaves 175 days left for other things!

- There is a clear link between attendance and achievement. Whenever a young person misses college through illness, holidays or truancy they miss out on important learning.
- Please telephone us if your son/daughter is ill and leave a message on the absence line. Please also phone on any subsequent days of illness, and for medical appointments. Where possible, please make medical appointments out of school hours.
- We will do our best to contact you on the first day of absence by text message - please telephone us in response to the message.
- We will also contact you if we have not been given a reason for an absence.

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

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

PE NEWS



U18 Football (team photo above)

The boys U18 football team made good progress in the ESFA National Cup before going out to the previous winners. After getting a bye in the 1st round, we were drawn at home to Beauchamp College in the 2nd round. After a good first half display with Alex Kent going close, Beauchamp took control in the second half, but resolute defending from the Groby defence kept any attacks at bay. Substitute Ben Gilbert grabbed a late winner with a towering header to win the tie taking Groby into a 3rd round fixture with De Ferrers Academy, Burton.

Groby dominated the early exchanges against De Ferrers, with Jack Bolton opening the scoring from the penalty spot after Harry Turner was brought down in the penalty area. Man of the match Tom McGlinchey doubled Groby's lead with an excellent finish before Connor Bryan grabbed a deflected third. Joe Swain scored the best goal of the game after a neat turn and cross by McGlinchey allowed Swain time to pick his spot and place his shot into the corner of the net. Not to be outdone, captain Sam Preston scored late on with a well placed finish before De Ferrers grabbed a late consolation, leaving Groby 5-1 winners. Brooke House College Football Academy were next up for Groby and dominated the game to go through to the next round – a step too far!

In the County Cup Groby went to Rawlins Academy and immediately gave away a two goal advantage after a slow start. Tom Mathews producing a stunning finish to bring Groby back into the game, and then levelled the scores after a goal keeping error. He completed his hat-trick with a left foot finish to put Groby ahead with minutes to go. Unfortunately, Rawlins grabbed a late equalise that took the games to penalties. This proved too much for Groby as we missed the first two penalties. Despite Kieran Fox making a superb save, Rawlins won 4-2.

U15 Rugby

The U15 rugby team took part in a triangular tournament in the 1st round of the County Cup against Lancaster School and Beauchamp College. In our first game we started brightly and raced into an early lead. Our strong running proved too much for Lancaster and Groby ran out 32-0 winners with three tries from Dan Simandi-Curtis, two from Storm Duggan and one from Owen Smith, with Harry Johnson adding a solitary conversion. Having lost to Lancaster in the first game, Beauchamp College needed to win and proved tough opponents to beat. They took a 13-0 lead and held on to win 13-10 despite late tries from Dan Simandi-Curtis and Harry Johnson. We won the tournament by virtue of points difference and await the draw for the next round.

U15 Football

The U15 football team have progressed to the next round of the County Cup after a 6 – 0 victory in the 1st round versus Limehurst and they take on Rawlins in the next round. They also lost a friendly fixture 4-0 against John Cleveland College.

ANNUAL SPORTS PRESENTATION EVENING

U16 Football - team photo left



The U16 football team have had an unbeaten start to the season and have made excellent progress in the ESFA National Cup. After a bye in the 1st round, Groby beat John Ferneley College in round 2 with a 4-1 victory, goals from Gareth Plumridge, Josh Burniston, Dan Page and an own goal. This took them away to George Spencer Academy in Nottingham. In probably their best performance of the season, Groby ran out 4-0 winners with goals from Josh Burniston, Dan Page, Kyle Morrish and another own goal to take them into the next round against Bishop Walsh Catholic School.

In Leicestershire fixtures Groby have gone on a scoring spree registering a 6-4 win against Bosworth Academy and an 8-4 win against John Cleveland College, Brandon Priestley, Dan Page and Josh Burniston with 2 goals apiece and Jordan Martin and Kyle Morrish completing the scoring.



Netball teams - year 11 team pictured below left and year 10 team below right



Big congratulations to the year 11 Netball team who beat Bosworth Academy **32-1** just before half-term. They played very well together, and I am confident the success will continue.

Unfortunately, the Year 10 Netball team were not quite so successful against Bosworth, however it was their first match together and they played well against a very difficult team. I'm sure the future will bring success.

Mr Lord,
PE Subject Leader

KEY DIARY DATES

MONDAY 21 - FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER • MID TERM BREAK

- Monday 4 - Friday 8 November • Year 11 Maths exam week
- Thursday 7 November • Post 16 Open Evening 6pm - 8pm
- Tuesday 19 November • Year 13 Subject and Tutor afternoon/evening 4pm - 7pm
- Thursday 21 November • Year 11 annual full reports available online via Parental Online Access
- Thursday 21 November • Year 11 Careers' evening 6pm - 8pm
- Wednesday 11 - Saturday 14 December • Christmas Show
- Thursday 12 December • Year 12 annual full reports available online via Parental Online Access
- Friday 13 December • Year 10 & 13 interim reports available online via Parental Online Access
- Friday 20 December • College closes 1pm

MONDAY 23 - FRIDAY 3 JANUARY CHRISTMAS BREAK

- 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

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

MONDAY 14 - FRIDAY 25 APRIL EASTER BREAK

SPRING TERM DATES SUMMARY 2013-14

Open

Monday 6 January 2014

Mid-Term Break

Monday 17 to Friday 21 February 2014

Close

Friday 11 April 2014

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