

Happy Easter

The Millthorpeian

Volume 13, Issue 2 April 2010



Dear Parents/Carers

I hope everyone has a well-deserved and relaxing break over Easter. I know that many Year 11 students will look to use this time to draw up revision timetables. The key is not to make them too complicated or too long. Students should build in breaks and give themselves time off to refresh and recharge their batteries over the holiday.

You should have received a letter earlier this week explaining the arrangements that are now in place whereby I will remain as Executive Headteacher of Millthorpe School until July 2011, or earlier if Mr Wootton is fit enough to resume his duties. Mrs Rees, my Deputy at Fulford, will take over operational matters as Associate Headteacher from June. Should Mr Wootton be able to return then Mrs Rees will remain to support him and the Senior Leadership Team to secure Millthorpe's progress.

Mrs Rees visited the school on Monday and, during her stay, she was very impressed with the calm atmosphere around the school. When we called into lessons, students were on task, polite and well behaved. Moreover, we saw some exceptional pieces of work being produced in a variety of lessons.

However, the one negative note was the drop in standards with regard to uniform among a significant minority of students, mainly in Years 10 and 11. This appears to be a hangover from the bad weather after Christmas when we sensibly relaxed our standards. Heads of Year and Senior Staff have spoken to all Year groups about this and I am now asking for your support. Students have been told that we will enforce our uniform code after Easter and offenders will be sent home to change into the correct uniform while serial offenders will risk being excluded for persistent refusal to follow school procedures. Please ensure that your son or daughter leaves home correctly attired and early enough to arrive at school on time.

Thank you for your support and understanding. I have really enjoyed working with so many positive young people and with dedicated and professional staff. The Spring Concert was a 'knock out' and the rest of this edition will give you an insight into what a vibrant and exciting place Millthorpe is.

S Smith
Executive Headteacher





PE DEPARTMENT NEWS

GCSE Dance Update — Since January 2010 the dance students have been preparing for their two moderation events, which were held in March.



They have learnt, rehearsed and performed three practical pieces; one set by the exam board, the second set by Miss Towler and the third, a solo piece, choreographed by the students themselves, along with a written piece of work explaining their own choreography. The solo pieces are unique, creative and inspiring, some of their titles including 'Dreams', 'Paranoia', 'Emotion' and even 'Electricity'. The movement content, dynamics and presentation of the dances reflect the talent and creativity of the students in the group. Some of the pieces were selected and

featured in the Spring Concert in February; parents, students and staff alike commented on the high quality and professionalism of the dancers.

The students are going to see Matthew Bourne's production of Swan Lake at the end of March as, following the moderation events, the students have to study five different professional choreographers and works in preparation for their two-hour exam in May, Matthew Bourne being one of them. Miss Towler hopes the students enjoy the show and, more importantly, continue to work hard and stay focused leading up to the exam.

Sports Leaders — Congratulations to the 31 Year 11 Sports Leaders for successfully passing their Level 1 Course. Everyone worked hard to meet the requirements and I hope most, if not all, continue to volunteer their services, helping young people and the community to promote and develop sport.



BOYS' PE

As the summer approaches and with it some good weather (we hope!) boys are reminded that they need their PE kit for both PE and Games lessons. In other words, the games kit can be stored away until next year. Also, all pupils will be involved in a new practice and fixture rota which will include rounders, cricket, athletics and tennis.

Football - Congratulations to the Year 11 footballers who, after a good year once again, are through to the play-offs versus Archbishop Holgate's (AHS). Good luck boys!

Basketball - the Year 7 basketball team are to be cheered on as they prepare for the district tournament at AHS on Thursday 22 April.

Rugby - Congratulations to the Year 7 rugby team who came back from being 18-10 down at half time to beat Lady Lumley's School 34-18 in their first and only game of the season. The team defended really well and scored some well-worked tries. This was a fantastic team effort. Well done.

Once again, can I remind pupils and parents/carers that all pupils must bring kit for every PE lesson. If pupils are injured or ill they are expected to be involved in refereeing and officiating. If pupils do not bring kit then they will be placed in a PE detention.

GIRLS' PE

Hockey — The Year 8 hockey team (with a few Year 9s and a couple of Year 7s) recently represented Millthorpe at the York and Selby Hockey tournament. This has been the only tournament we have been able to enter due to a lack of people at practices, however we walked over to The Mount School and set about strapping Deni Hancox into the goalkeeping kit (she drew the short straw!!). Despite having never played the position before, Deni showed nerves of steel, making some excellent saves. However even she could not stop us losing 5-0 to St Olaves and 4-0 to Bootham. The team weren't fazed by this, however, and some excellent attacking play saw Millthorpe beat Fulford 2-0 and Joseph Rowntree 1-0. The final result saw Millthorpe finish 7th out of 9 teams. Thanks to all the girls who took part.



GIRLS' P.E. (continued)



Netball — It's been a busy time in girls' PE since the last newsletter was published.

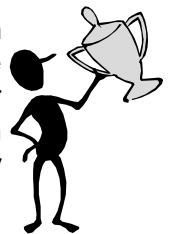
It started way back on 30 January when the Year 9 netball team went to Wickersley High School in Rotherham, representing North Yorkshire at the Regional Round of the National Schools' competition. On a very cold day, and with supporters galore, the team did themselves proud. They fought for every goal, producing some wonderful netball and, despite a few players going down with injuries towards the end of the tournament, kept challenging to the end. Unfortunately, a couple of lost games cost us and the team finished 5th – however this is indeed a wonderful achievement as they are the best U14 team in Yorkshire and Humberside. Well done to all players – Beth Preston, Laura Stables, Cassie Thomas, Holly Murphy, Rachel Jarman, Deni Hancox and Charlotte Wareham. A big thank you also to Faye, Hannah and Alice (Year 10) who came through to score on behalf of the team.

The Year 7 and Year 8 netballers have all been out representing the school in their respective tournaments and, whilst they didn't come home with a trophy, they did themselves and the school proud with their determination to do well and for their good sportsmanship. The Year 7s even managed to win their first match – beating Fulford 1-0. Thank you to all who represented the school and well done.

A large handful of our Year 10 netballers have been out practicing their umpiring skills and umpired at these tournaments as well as doing numerous school matches. They are developing into talented umpires and will shortly be assessed for their formal qualification. Updates on their success to follow.

On 12 March, Miss Watts headed off to Loughborough as she had been appointed to the U19 European Netball Championships as an umpire. It was a busy weekend as she was allocated 4 matches to umpire, including the closest game of the tournament between Scotland and Northern Ireland. Other matches included Northern Ireland v Malta, Northern Ireland v Wales and Scotland v Wales. Miss Watts has also been allocated Superleague Netball matches this season – the Superleague being the highest league in the country for netball - with matches taking her as far afield as Glasgow and Cardiff.

Finally, on 25 March, Millthorpe School hosted the York and Selby netball tournament. Ten schools from across the city entered into an A and B tournament. Millthorpe School were 'hot favourites' for the title and certainly lived up to the hype! Progressing through their section undefeated, Millthorpe played All Saints' in the semi-final, a team they beat earlier in the week 29-6. Another comfortable win saw them play St Peter's in the final. This is usually Millthorpe's hardest match and, despite some good play from St Peter's, Millthorpe pulled away with some excellent team defence, breaking down most of the St Peter's attack. Winning the match 7-3 saw Millthorpe crowned as York and Selby Champions. Congratulations to all girls who took part. The team were Faye Whiteley, Abi Olsen, Hannah Schofield, Hannah Sturdy, Alice Rogers, Rachael Ackroyd and Ruby Woodcock.



Cross-Country — Huge congratulations should also go to Laura Heyworth (Year 7) who, having finished the Inter-School Cross Country in a qualifying position (3rd), took up her option to run on behalf of York. At the North Yorkshire Cross Country, Laura finished a marvellous 7th and followed this up by finishing 9th in a fixture versus the East Riding. Well done Laura!

Summer Term Activities — Summer term is upon us once more after Easter, therefore PE lessons will be changing. Athletics, cricket, rounders and tennis are coming up.

Athletics — events for Years 7–10 competing against other schools are in the diary. Budding athletes should show their ability in PE lessons and compete against the best athletes from other schools in York.

Cricket — Training for Years 7–10 will start shortly after Easter. Pupils who are interested should look out for notices on the student bulletin and around school.

Rounders — fixtures will be announced by Ms Watts and Ms Towler for Years 7–10.



FUND-RAISING

Pupils and staff had lots of fun fundraising this term. The long-awaited and much enjoyed Talent Show in aid of the Haiti Earthquake Appeal took place and Millthorpe 'went for gold' with a week dedicated to Sport Relief. Well done to all pupils who took part in the basketball shoot-out, especially Lucy Nettleton & Lucy Broadbent (7SW) and Asher McCartney (7MB) who scored the most hoops.

Total money raised:

Talent Show in aid of Haiti Earthquake Appeal	£146
Sport Relief Activities and Non-uniform Day	£915

Many thanks to all of our pupils and parents for your support and generous contributions to our recent fundraising events

Ski Trip 2010 — Austria

It was touch and go at one point whether this year's ski trip would actually happen. However, by joining with Thornleigh School from Bolton, we were able to make the trip happen. Over February half term Mr Boothman, Miss Watts and Mr Stipetic took 22 pupils to Austria for a trip of a lifetime, where snow, sun and slope action were in abundance! Our pupils soon made new friends from within the Thornleigh cohort which was pleasing to see.

Staying in the picturesque town of St Johann we were only 10 minutes away from the slopes which meant that we could get 5 hours of skiing in each day. The conditions in the resort were ideal, with plenty of fresh snow to play in, and the new voucher system we used for lunchtime meant that the pupils could indulge in fantastic Austrian food.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their ski school experiences and it was great that so many of them improved throughout the week. The beginners quickly moved from the nursery slopes on to the blue and even the red runs. I am sure that they will remember their first skiing experience and will have 'Caught the Ski-ing bug'. The intermediate and advanced groups also did extremely well improving their techniques and carving up the Piste!



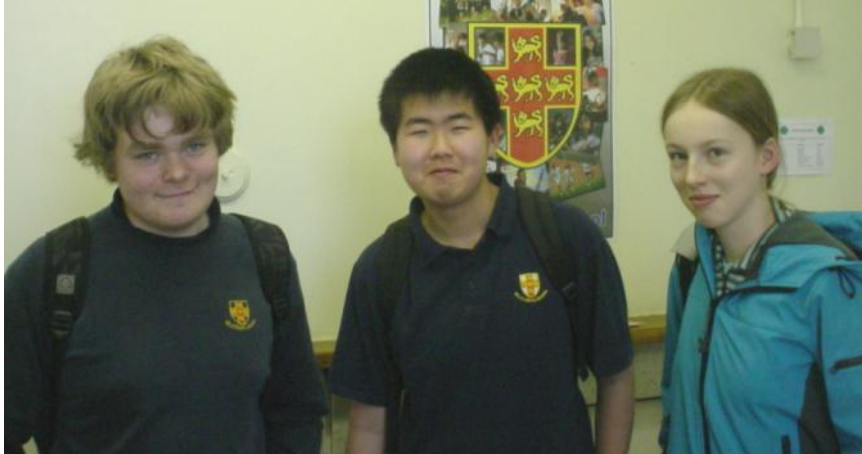
Evening entertainment was also very memorable with, perhaps the highlight for many of our pupils, a trip to the local Disco. I have never seen so many pupils hit the dance floor with so much enthusiasm. What a pleasure to be part of such a fun night with so many fantastic children.

The only sad thing about the trip was that it was over so quickly and the long journey back home in time for school on Monday morning. Next year's ski trip will be advertised at some time in the summer term and will be open to pupils from all current year groups.



Maths Challenges

Intermediate Maths Challenge

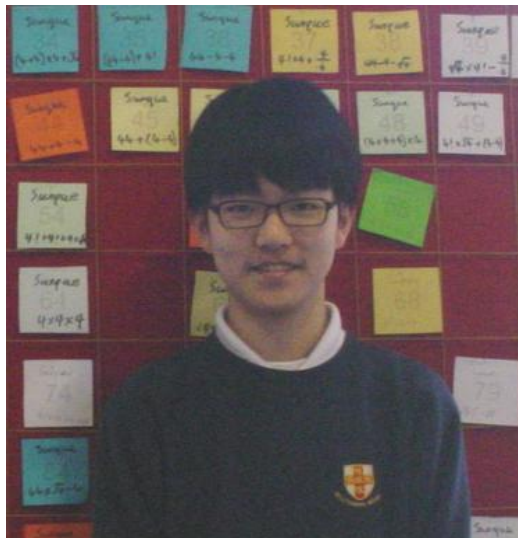


The Maths Challenges are run from Leeds University. Most secondary schools participate as they are highly regarded throughout the UK.

This year we entered over 150 students from Years 9 to 11 and 57 achieved a certificate with 31 achieving bronze, 19 silver and 7 gold.

From our participants 3 Year 11 students qualified for subsequent rounds; Sophie Charles and Joe Towse both took part in the Pink Kangaroo, which is a European round, whilst Dohyeon Lee was entered for the MacLaurin Qualifier, another European round but a level higher.

Well done to all who took part and especially to our top three qualifiers.



The '4x4' Challenge—and not a car in sight!

This term the Maths Department, along with the library, set up a maths challenge to write equations using only the digit 4 and only a maximum of four of them, along with any of the mathematical operations. The answers to these equations had to be the numbers 1 to 100.

We had a fantastic response from the students who used their maths expertise and came up with some very imaginative equations. One student in particular shone; Sunque Kim of 9SZC wrote 82. An amazing effort — well done. There are still some equations to be found/written and a form point is available for anyone who can complete them!



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

UNIFORM

As we enter our summer term we would like to remind students and parents that it will not be a requirement for students to wear their school sweatshirt during this warmer period. Should, however, the weather necessitate the wearing of extra layers, then this must always be the school sweatshirt.

Over this last term some items of clothing have crept into school which do not conform with our uniform policy. We would ask all parents to familiarise themselves with Millthorpe's uniform policy by consulting their child's planner or via the school website under the section 'Documentation'.

Where items of clothing fall outside the policy we would ask parents to make every effort to rectify these over the Easter break. We shall expect all pupils to begin the new term in appropriate uniform and thank parents in advance for their co-operation and support in our efforts to ensure the smart appearance of all of our pupils.

Students who attend school incorrectly dressed will be sent home and asked to return in correct uniform while serial offenders will be at risk of exclusion from school.

PUNCTUALITY

As a school we place great importance on pupils arriving to school on time. Pupils who arrive late to school and lessons disrupt the learning of other pupils and, if persistently late, miss out on a large part of their education.

Registration takes place at the following times:

Morning	8.50am
Afternoon	1.25pm (1.10pm Wednesdays)

We have recently introduced new procedures for dealing with pupils who are late to school on a morning without parental permission. From now on, pupils who arrive after the start of morning registration will serve a 20 minute detention at lunchtime the same day in B14 classroom.

If a pupil fails to attend the lunchtime detention, parents will be sent a letter or contacted by phone to say that the pupil will serve an hour's detention after school on the following Friday. Failure to attend this detention will result in the pupil being internally withdrawn from lessons for one day.

Pupils who arrive in school after registration must always sign in at the office. If your child needs to be late to school (e.g. to attend a medical appointment) you can contact the school office beforehand or send your child in with a note or appointment card to hand in when they sign in at the office.

We would like to thank all parents and carers for their support in our efforts.



A NOTE FROM YOUR GOVERNORS

Blink and you miss the year. Time flies and we're at Easter again, after the heaviest snow in a very long time and several days of listening for the 'schools closed today' being announced on the local radio!

By the time you read this, you will have heard about the school's leadership plans for the next year. The governors have been closely involved – instrumental in approving the plans indeed – with the current leadership arrangements, and look forward to working with Mrs Rees next term.

A great deal of hard work by not too many people has allowed this to happen, which has given benefit to both Millthorpe and Fulford schools.

As we move into exam season again, I would like to offer the best of luck to all those pupils, busy with revision (I hope!), as they prepare. Don't forget to take a little time to relax in the holidays, though.

Steve Brereton
Chair of Governors



Beauty and the Bike

From Monday 15 - Wednesday 17 March, ten Year 7 girls took part in the Beauty and the Bike Scheme run by Sustrans. It is an organisation designed to increase the numbers of girls cycling to school. The high street store Lush worked in partnership, providing free beauty advice prior to, during and after a bike ride.

All of the girls had a brilliant time, learning about how to fix punctures, staying safe on the road and each received a complimentary goodie bag from Lush.

WELL DONE!!



LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Entente Cordiale

On Tuesday 26 January Millthorpe School welcomed staff and pupils from our partner school in France, Collège Lucien Vadez.

Links with Collège Lucien Vadez began with a visit to Millthorpe School in January 2006. This is the fifth year that M Denis Briez and his colleagues have visited us as part of their week long stay in York. The French pupils had



an introduction to school life in England and met pupils from Year 8 and Year 11. Pupils were soon talking to each other in English and French and were able to discuss the similarities and differences in their daily school life.



The French pupils then visited lessons in school with different year groups and had a tour of the school followed by lunch in the school dining room.

Mr Stipetic and M Denis Briez are in regular contact throughout the school year. They have extended the exchange of letters between the two schools. Mr Stipetic's year 7 pupils are writing to pupils from 6ième class at Collège Lucien Vadez and the majority of KS3 pupils are now exchanging

letters with their French penfriends.

Year 8 pupils involved in the visit were able to say "A bientôt" rather than goodbye as they will be visiting Collège Lucien Vadez on the first day of their visit to the Opal Coast in April.

German Exchange

On February 3rd, our German visitors arrived to see us as part of the German exchange. 23 pupils came over from Stadtlohn, which is near Münster in the west of Germany.

On Thursday, the German pupils joined their exchange partners in school and took part in all sorts of lessons, such as science, history and even German!

Friday was the day we all had off school to go on a trip, and we took the opportunity to show our visitors some of the treats York has to offer. We went to the Jorvik Viking Centre and the Dig to learn about our Viking ancestors, and of course we took some time to enjoy the shops!

The British pupils involved in the exchange kept their partners busy over the weekend, with lots of people meeting up in large groups to do all sorts of different activities.



Languages Club Spring Term Round-Up!



Aurélien and Kai, the French and German assistants at Millthorpe, hold a Language Club every Wednesday lunch time for the KS3 pupils. They have been attending in their masses, reaching the amazing number of 45.



So far, they have written to pen friends, enjoyed French delicacies, watched a French feature film, and learnt about "Les Restos du Coeur", a French national charity providing people in need with clothing and baby food, clothes pop band composed of a large recording an album years, and their success. All over France, volunteers are queuing up to help at centers where people in need can be welcomed. Aurélien and Mrs McNulty have shown the KS3 pupils musical videos and films to make them aware of this charity (you can watch them again on the Languages Blog).



Unfortunately, Kai, the German assistant has few weeks and has had to go back to Germany, back after the Easter break. In his absence, organised replacement sessions, including a by Ms Quevedo, our Spanish teacher, in which ordering their tapas and drinks in Spanish.



not been well in the past but thankfully he will be languages teachers have tapas tasting session, run pupils very much enjoyed



Next to come after Easter is a Football World Cup bonanza, where pupils will become familiar with the German and French football teams, as well as football fashion, food and music from all around the world. Everybody is welcome, not only football geeks!!

German Exchange (continued)

On Monday and Tuesday, the German pupils left their partners at school to go and see some more of what York had to offer, but on Wednesday they were back in school again (some even came to more German lessons!).

On Wednesday afternoon, straight after school, it was time to bid farewell to our guests. Judging by the number of tears that were shed saying goodbye, it's a safe bet to say that we are looking forward to going to Germany to see our partners again in May!





HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

INTRODUCTION

Millthorpe has been heavily involved in Holocaust memorial events this year. As well as a four day visit by Year 10 and Year 11 students to Auschwitz and Birkenau, Year 9 students have also looked at the life of Sophie Scholl and some were lucky enough to meet a survivor of the Holocaust, Iby Knill.

**DIE
WEISSE
ROSE**



Sophie Scholl

On 22 February 1943, 21 year old Sophie Scholl was executed by the Nazis. Along with her brother Hans and a small group of friends she had dared to stand up to their regime by publishing and distributing leaflets that called for the German people to stand up to the criminal Nazi system.

As part of our Holocaust Memorial activities on the extended learning day, our Year 9 classes all took part in a session to learn about Sophie and her resistance movement "The White Rose". We learnt about her family background and watched part of a film adaptation of her story as well as looking at extracts from the leaflets that were published and distributed by her group. Finally, our Year 9 pupils all imagined themselves as supporters of Sophie as she was awaiting trial by the Nazis and wrote to her whilst she was in prison. The letters are moving, poignant and speak for themselves:

"I know many people who think your courage is one in a million and believe you shouldn't have your life taken away from you. After all, we should all have freedom of speech".

". . . at this moment you must feel disappointed, but there is no reason to be. You will go down in history as the bravest woman in Germany".

". . . I cannot imagine the pain you must be going through. You are brave and I have so much respect for you".

"I wish I had the courage to stand up to the Nazis. You will be remembered by all of us".

"It makes me sick to think that you are innocent and you are still being held. I believe that everything you've said in your leaflets is true which is why I'm going to carry on giving out the leaflets no matter what the consequences are".

"You are an inspiration to all German citizens, the Nazis are out of control and someone needs to put a stop to this madness".



Hans & Sophie Scholl

Extract from 1st leaflet:

"Who among us can conceive the extent of the shame that will descend upon us and our children, when finally the veil drops from our eyes and the ghastly crimes beyond human measure are visible to the whole world?"

"You didn't back down and you will die an honourable death. We will carry on your legacy and will fight 'til the day it stops".

"I applaud you for having the courage that so many others don't".

"I wanted to tell you how proud I am of you . . ."

Our letters are now on display outside the main hall in school and I urge you all to take some time to read them next time you are in school – we are very proud of what our pupils have written and the above quotations are just a small sample of the excellent letters our pupils produced.

To find out more about Sophie Scholl please see our MFL Blog at www.languagesatmillthorpe.typepad.co.uk or speak to our Year 9 pupils.

Miss J Gray – Head of German



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL (continued)

Iby Knill

As a follow up to the extended learning day on Holocaust Education, sixty Year 9 students were privileged to be able to meet and talk to Iby Knill, a survivor of Auschwitz and now a representative of the Holocaust Survivors Friendship Association. Iby, who is now 86, was captured by the Nazis in 1942 for being a member of the Hungarian resistance movement and sent to Auschwitz death camp. She survived the "death march" to Buchenwald in 1945 and has lived in the UK for many years. Survivors of the Holocaust are now few and far between, and Iby told us that in the North of England only two survive; therefore being given the opportunity to ask Iby questions and listen to her life story was a once in a lifetime experience for the students. Here are a selection of their views about meeting Iby....

"I was blown away by your strength of character. Your story was inspiring and I hope your efforts will make this world a better place".

"You are a very brave woman and you deserve the utmost respect".

"I think it shows an amazing strength of character to come and share your experiences and to be able to answer our questions".

"I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to meet you".

"What you said about "us", our generation, being the ones who could make a difference is something I think will stick with me".

The final words go to Iby herself....

"I was really moved by the students' responses – let's hope they remember them and act accordingly. It was a pleasure meeting the students and I hope we can do this again".

Millthorpe hopes so too.

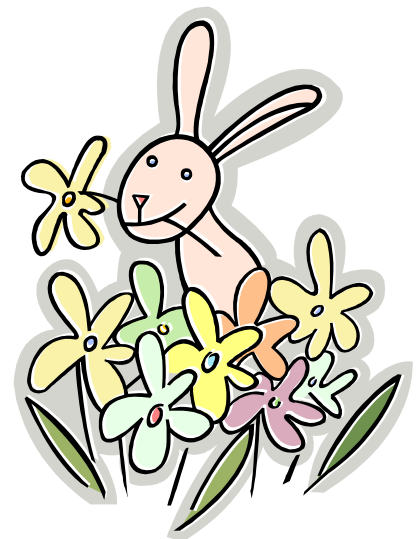
I Noble, Head of R.E.

SEPTEMBER 2010 START DATE

There will be a phased pupil return in
September, as follows:

Year 7, Year 10 and Year 11 will start
on Thursday 2 September

All pupils will be in school on
Friday 3 September





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Boys' P.E. News — Congratulations to Alex Coates-McDowall who has just signed for Blackburn Rovers Football Club on a 1 year academy contract. Alex is an excellent goalkeeper, who will relish the opportunity to work alongside some stars of the future and may become one himself!

Girls' PE News — We are delighted to announce that Natasha Walker in year 9 has been selected to represent North Yorkshire at the National Schools' Gymnastics Competition in Newcastle shortly.

Congratulations to Natasha on her achievement and we wish her every success in the competition.



IMPORTANT DATES—SUMMER TERM

Term begins	Monday 19 April
Half term w/c	Monday 31 May
Term ends	Thursday 22 July
May Day Holiday	Monday 3 May
Staff Training	Thursday 1 July

Exam Dates:

Year 7 Exams Start	Monday 26 April
Year 8 Exams Start	Tuesday 4 May
Year 9 Exams Start	Monday 10 May
Year 11 Main GCSEs Start	Monday 17 May

Year 10 GCSE exams take place on various dates this term. Pupils and parents have already been notified.

School Concert: Thursday 8 July

Year 9 Activities Week & Year 10 Work Experience (2 weeks) Start: Monday 12 July

Reports to Parents (weeks commencing):

Year 7	Monday 14 June
Year 8	Monday 28 June
Year 9	Monday 19 July
Year 10	Monday 24 May

VOUCHERS

Just a reminder to say that we are collecting:

Sainsbury and Tesco Vouchers

Please hand them in to school as quickly as possible.
Thank you.

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR PARENTS & PUPILS A VERY



PUPILS RETURN ON MONDAY 19 APRIL