

Happy Easter

The Millthorpeian

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April 2011

Dear Parents/Carers

Millthorpe's very successful Spring Term 2011 draws to a close with the prospect of a delightful Easter ahead.

Our students continue to perform well academically and we have received an award from the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust as our performance over the period 2007 - 2010 for 5 A*-C English and Mathematics (a national performance indicator) places us in the most improved category. This is a testimony to all the hard work of the staff here at Millthorpe and is well-deserved.

Our Language Specialism is central to the ethos of Millthorpe, enhancing the cultural life of students, particularly in Year 9 with the German Exchange. Millthorpe students and their German partners enjoyed trips to The Deep and ten pin bowling, as well as experiencing lessons at Millthorpe. Our students return to Germany in June. Year 8 students are visiting the Opal Coast in France on Friday 8 April and I know they will thoroughly enjoy their experience. May I take this opportunity to thank Mr Winston and Mr Stipetic, who have given their time freely to organise these trips, and the staff accompanying them.

Earlier in the term some of our students were engaged in a Jazz Festival at the University of York. At school we have enjoyed our Spring Concert, where we were treated to the wide range of talent here at Millthorpe School. Grandparents in the audience commented on the positive atmosphere in the school. Many thanks to Mr Jackson, Mrs Wright, Miss Bell and Ms Eames for all the creative opportunities they offer our students.

Student fundraising this term has been impressive. Our Children in Need campaign raised £1,500 which we thought could not be topped, but the determination of the We R U team showed us what could be done. Through a range of events, such as henna painting and a talent show, Millthorpe students eventually raised £1,885. Thank you to all parents and carers who supported our school community to achieve this wonderful result. Student Leadership has been a priority throughout the year; with the support from Miss Lamb and We R U are demonstrating how that can become a reality.

The Girls' netball achievement has been spectacular this year. Playing in the National Finals in Southampton, our girls came 14th nationally and received the Sportsmanship Award. This is a significant achievement. Well done to all, including grandparents and parents who supported the girls and, of course, to Miss Watts who is bursting with pride.

As warmer weather approaches, girls' skirts tend to creep above the knee. May I remind students that school skirts must be knee length and I would appreciate parental support to ensure that this happens.

This is my final forward to the Millthorpeian. Mr Trevor Burton will be in post from 26 April 2011. It has been a privilege to lead Millthorpe School and I wish the school continued success in the future.

With my very best wishes and I hope you all have a peaceful Easter.

S. Rees

Siân Rees, Associate Headteacher



ART DEPARTMENT

Dry point by Sarah Wilson,



Thanks to Bar Lane Studios, Millthorpe students have explored new creative experiences this term.

Year 10 GCSE Art & Design students attended a relief print workshop led by a professional printmaker/graphic designer. Drawings relating to the 'Local Environment' coursework theme were developed into dry points and lino prints. Students were introduced to a range of new mark-making techniques, learning how to use specialist tools and a printing press. Inking-up lino and metal plates proved a messy business but the results were impressive!

Budding animators from all year groups were recently invited to a **Creative Workshop** taster session run after

school by **Paul Jones**. Students produced their own characters during lunchtime Art Club before using their oil pastel studies to create amazing light painting portraits. Students enjoyed using photographic equipment and techniques not available in school.

The Creative Workshop run an After School Arts Club on Tuesdays (3.30 to 5.00pm) at Bar Lane Studios, Micklegate.

Phone Paul or Sara on 629944 or 07531 645402 for more details.



Artwork by Marion Ewereton, 9KFB

Bar Lane Studios offer a wide range of Art and Design courses and workshops.

www.BarLaneStudios.com

Dry point by Sophie Soanes, 10VMC



Art work created by Millthorpe students in all year groups will soon be available on the Art Department website - www.millthorpeschool.co.uk.



GIRLS' P.E. NEWS

MILLTHORPE SCHOOL TAKE HOME TROPHY FROM NATIONAL FINALS-

On Saturday 19 March, Millthorpe's U16 netball team represented Yorkshire and Humberside for the first time at the eteach.com National Netball Finals in Southampton. On a gloriously sunny day, the team were ready for the challenge having spent a month preparing with extra training, saq, warm-up sessions and mental preparation workshops led by Dean Armstrong and Professor Andy Smith at York St John University, for which we would like to extend our thanks.

Our first match was against Sevenoaks School. Tensions were high as the girls took to court. They competed for every ball, made some good turnovers and shot some excellent goals, however, as the final whistle went, Sevenoaks were 7-5 up and took their victory. Next came Oundle who are a very tight netball unit. All of their players were at least 2 inches taller than the Millthorpeians and this proved decisive as the players struggled to feed the ball past the long arms of the opposition. An 11-3 loss was the result despite some competitive play.



The third game was against Newcastle Central High and this turned out to be the girls' only victory. Motivated by their two losses, they took their frustrations out on the Northern team, producing a 6-1 half time lead and going on to consolidate it, winning 9-5. Some excellent defensive work by Ruby Woodcock and Rachael Ackroyd was the highlight of the game. Next up was Bromsgrove and they showed us how to play netball. Hannah Sturdy in centre court never gave up, going for every ball, however it just wasn't enough. A 20-1 defeat by the eventual losing finalists knocked the girls' confidence. Brighton College were our next obstacle and the girls rallied well with some wonderful centre court pressure from Hannah Schofield and Alice Rogers. A 5-5 half time score gave the girls some confidence back but fatigue was starting to set in and they could not keep the momentum going, eventually losing 13-7. It was important to not give up during matches as, if we scored over half of our opponents' score, we gained a point which proved crucial in determining our overall position. St Peters C of E Aided School were next and, again, a first half display of excellent netball from the centre court unit, especially some attacking circle feed from

Anna Bowgett, saw a half-time score of 6-4 but, again, second half fatigue set in and our opponents went on to win 13-6. The game against Sharnbrook Upper School saw Millthorpe play their best netball of the tournament. Some outstanding shooting under pressure from Abi Olsen and Faye Whiteley saw the hard working team go neck and neck, losing out 8-9 at the final whistle. Fatigue really hit the girls towards the end of the tournament and, whilst the determination and drive to succeed never went away, they couldn't hold on to Bacup & Rawtenstall who were 16-6 victors.

Millthorpe finished in 14th place overall making them the 14th best U16 netball team in England and this is an incredible achievement. The girls asked to stay so they could watch the semi-finals and finals and were delighted (and extremely surprised) to be announced winners of the Endeavour Trophy at the presentation ceremony. Millthorpe were awarded the trophy for outstanding sportsmanship and positive attitude on court. The school were nominated by the umpires and England Netball officials present and they beat 53 other teams on the day to the prestigious award.

It is the end of a very long journey for the netball team who have been together since Year 5 and they could not help having one more adventure before the end. All 9 of the squad managed to get trapped in the hotel lift for 45 minutes, only being rescued when the Fire Service came to let them out! Team Coach Sarah Watts says, "I am extremely proud both of the achievements the girls have had through school but also of their commitment to put back into the game what they have got out of it. All of the girls have qualified as umpires, lending their expertise to numerous netball matches and tournaments across the city for the past two years and have helped coach the younger teams at the school. England Netball has also asked them to trial a new qualification which they are intending to embed within the Youth pathway. They have left a legacy in place as students want to emulate what they have done. We have several girls now on an umpiring programme in the school and teams wanting extra training. It has been a privilege to be their coach and I wish them every success in their future careers'."



A NOTE FROM YOUR GOVERNORS

Since Christmas the Governing Body has experienced the two most challenging situations that face schools; recruiting a new headteacher and successfully surviving an Ofsted Inspection. The first is probably the single most important job of school governors and it is worth explaining, for those who are not aware, that all headteachers are employed by the governing body, not the local authority and not the school. We were extremely fortunate to attract an excellent set of candidates from which a short list of six was drawn up for a marathon two-day interview. Three candidates made it through to a second day of tough questioning and at the end of it the recruitment panel, which also included the City of York Council's Director and Assistant Director of Education, were unanimous in appointing Trevor Burton of Harrogate Grammar School as our new headteacher.

The appointment of our new headteacher puts behind us many months of uncertainty about school leadership but it also means that our formal partnership with Fulford School will come to an end. This partnership has been beneficial to both schools and Steve Smith as Executive Headteacher and Siân Rees as Associate Headteacher have successfully brought their collective experience, knowledge and wisdom to bear on taking the school forward through a challenging time.

The recent 'good' Ofsted judgement is a testament to that partnership's success, in particular the commitment of Siân Rees and the school's own Senior Leadership Team. Trevor Burton has been set the challenge of building on this success and taking Millthorpe forward to attain the 'excellent' evaluation we know the school deserves and is more than capable of achieving.

The Governing Body will play its part and will continue to refresh its structures and practices. Two

more new governors will help us on this journey, Tim Hooper, Parent Governor and Councillor Dave Merrett, Local Authority Governor who replaces Gill Dempsey as she reached the end of her term of office. One of the key areas of work we will be concentrating on is 'School and Community' through which we will develop opportunities for more parents and carers to be involved in the work of the school and to raise funds and grants for school improvements. Watch this space!

Finally, all these positive messages would not have been possible without staff and students taking part, getting stuck in and making a difference: whether personal achievement in behaviour and lessons, team effort on the sports field, going the extra mile as a teacher, fund raising for charity or just smiling more often! Everyone can feel justifiably proud of our achievements.

I hope you all thoroughly enjoy your Easter break.

Bob Sydes, Chair of Governors

IMPORTANT DATES—SUMMER TERM

Term begins	Tuesday 26 April
Half term w/c	Monday 30 May
Term ends	Friday 22 July
Royal Wedding	Friday 29 April
May Day Holiday	Monday 2 May
Extended Learning Day (3.00pm finish)	Wednesday 4 May
Training (early closure-2.30pm finish)	Monday 23 May
Y7 Parents' Evening	Wednesday 27 April
Exam Dates:	
Years 7 & 8 Exams start	Monday 20 June
Year 10 Modular exams & Year 11 Main GCSEs start:	Monday 9 May
No Year 9 exams (students undertake assessments/ tests during the year)	
Sports Day:	Friday 1 July
Year 10 Work Experience (2 weeks) start:	Monday 11 July
Year 7, 8 & 9 Activities	18, 19 & 20 July
Celebration Event	Thursday 21 July
Reports to Parents	
Year 7 & Year 8 Targets and Year 9 Final Report:	Wednesday 13 July



YEAR 7 CASTLE COMPETITION



Year 7 Historians have excelled themselves this term by producing a fantastic array of model castles. As part of their investigation in to how a medieval monarch kept control, the History department challenged students to produce a model of the castle of their choice. We had lots of Motte and Bailey models, Square Stone Keeps, Shell Keeps and Concentric Castles made out of all sorts of raw materials. Papier-mâché, lollipop and cocktail sticks, kitchen rolls and even recycled balustrades were used to create the models.

Some students turned their hand to baking and several cake castles were made too. Many thanks to Sarah Forth, who made a fantastic chocolate castle that was much-enjoyed by 7LD.

Judging the castles was a very difficult task. Each form chose the castles that they thought should go through to the final. From these the following winners were chosen:

- Ellis Leary (7DJM)** for his castle with round towers and moving portcullis
- Emily Marshall (7LD)** for her outstanding Motte and Bailey model.
- Brook Avery (7JW)** for another outstanding Motte and Bailey model.
- Rosy Huby (7DJM)** for a fantastic model of a Concentric castle.



All castles are on display in the library for the summer term. Well done to Year 7 students, and a few parents as well, for all their hard work!



BOYS' PE NEWS

Year 7 Rugby

Congratulations to the Year 7 team for a brilliant performance in the Marston Moors finals. They played some fantastic rugby to win their group which set up a semi-final with Barlby. Millthorpe won the match by 3 tries to nil. The team will now play on finals day at Heworth rugby club later on in the year. A special mention has to

be made about Lewis Walsh who scored an astonishing 12 tries in the tournament.

Year 8 and 9 Rugby

Both teams gave excellent accounts of themselves in their respective Marston Moors competitions. They could not quite manage the semi-finals stage, however the teams have grown in confidence and are already looking forward to their next competitions.





LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT



German Exchange

On Friday 11 March we went to meet our German exchange partners outside Hamilton Panthers on Knavesmire Road at 5.30pm. Over the course of the weekend we got to know our exchange partners really well as we visited various places in an around York. This included our normal weekend activities and our hobbies, e.g. dance, going into town and much more. Some people also took their partners to the coast and met up with other exchange students.

On Monday 14 March our partners came into school with us and, after registration, all the German

exchange students and their partners met up and went to The Deep in Hull. We spent most of the morning there and had lunch, after which we went to a shopping complex in Hull, spending a couple of hours shopping and having fun.

On Tuesday our German partners came to Millthorpe, spending time in lessons and getting a taste of what English schools are like. After lunch, they went into York, sightseeing, while we went to lessons as normal.

Wednesday 16 March was the last full day the German students were with us. They visited the National Railway Museum and the Minster. Later on Wednesday evening, we all went bowling to celebrate the week we had spent together. In groups of 6, we all enjoyed two games of bowling.

On Thursday 17 it was time to say 'auf Wiedersehen' but not for the last time. We are all looking forward to our visit to Germany in June and hope we have as much fun there as we did in England.



by Becca Hussey, 9SYW and Beth Hickey, 9SDB



Year 7 Language Club Cooking German Pasta

During their lunchtime language club, Year 7 students have learnt about different aspects of the German culture, e.g. German television, sports and Christmas. Recently the ambitious members of the French and German Club came together to prepare a speciality from southern Germany, called "Eierspätzle" which is pasta prepared with flour, water and eggs. With the help of the German and French assistants, as well as Ms Ramsay, we made

the most of the forty minutes, distributing different tasks from cooking the pasta to chopping onions and grating cheese, as well as preparing the sauce. After twenty-five minutes of hard work, we could finally taste the results of our experiment. Here are some of the opinions:

"I liked it because it was from Germany and had lots of ingredients." (Callum)

"It was lovely. I wish I could have it again." (Michael)

After this great start, we are all looking forward to our French cooking session, in which we will make French Crêpes!





LAUGH Library Action User Group Helpers

Millthorpe Library now has a Committee of students, known as **LAUGH**, selected from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. They have volunteered to help make our school library a more useful, welcoming and enjoyable place to learn, read and work. They will be the 'Student Voice' of the Library, informing our decisions for the benefit of all library users.

LAUGH members will give up their time when possible to help library users make the most of their school library. Their contributions will include:

- shelving returned books
- preparing new books for borrowing
- advising students on suitable books for a homework assignment
- explaining how the library resources are arranged
- demonstrating the use of Search Star
- advising students on a suitable choice for Reading for Pleasure

LAUGH members will have regular meetings to decide on improvements in interior décor, future book and audio-visual stock purchases, the founding of special interest groups and any matters arising from suggestions from staff or students.

So, if there's a book you need, an improvement you can suggest or an activity you think we should accommodate, look for a **LAUGH** card hanging round someone's neck and see if they can help you.

LAUGH current membership:

Leah, Year 10; Kristina, Alex, Tom, Momo, Hatty & Elle, Year 9; Greg, Karlos, Cam & Alfie, Year 8; Georgina, Milli, Rosy, Lola, Ellie & Deano, Year 7.

Languages Department (continued)

Recipe for Eierspätzle (Serves 4)

500g Spätzle (found in most delicatessen shops, but any other pasta will do as well)

1 onion

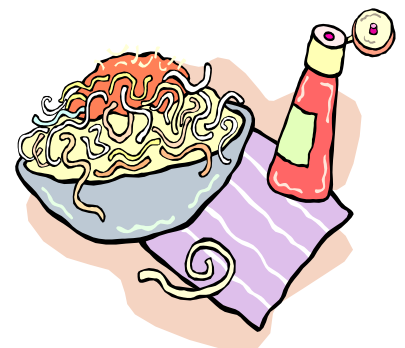
250ml double cream

150g grated edam (or a cheese of your choice)

2 tablespoons of sunflower seeds oil

Salt, pepper, vegetable stock, parsley

- Boil the pasta according to instructions on the package
- Chop the onions into small chunks and fry them with the oil until golden-brownish
- Add the cream to the onions and bring to boil
- Add half of the cheese to the sauce and add one teaspoon of vegetable stock and season with salt, pepper and parsley
- Serve the sauce on top of the pasta and cover with the remaining cheese



Christian Rhein, German Language Assistant



'Pride and Prejudice' - Year 10 Explore British and German National Identity



Back in the dark days of January, Millthorpe students from Year 10 joined girls at The Mount School to take part in a joint weekly masterclass. They were exploring issues of national identity through art, literature, history and music. The students then discussed their ideas on-line with another group of students from Philipp-Melanchthon-Gymnasium, a school which is situated to the east of Berlin who were working on the same project but from a German perspective. Their work can be seen by logging on to: www.radiowaves.co.uk/yorkissp.

This exciting project culminated last week when 11 students from the German school arrived in York on Saturday night to be paired off with British host families. On Sunday the British and German students spent the day together. In the morning they showed each other the presentations they had prepared. The day ended with a debate on national identity, involving guest speakers in the style of 'Question Time'. The level of argument in the debate was excellent, with Millthorpe students contributing well. The British students were amazed at the excellent standard of the Germans' English!

On Monday the York and German students visited the Castle Museum. Here they were given the task of choosing 5 objects to create a display of 'typical' Britishness. It was quickly agreed that notions of 'Britishness' were very contradictory. For example, on the one hand Britain was perceived as valuing liberty but this sat uneasily with our history of Empire. Tuesday saw the culmination of the project when the students worked in mixed groups to produce a piece of art that reflected British and German identity. The pieces they have created are stunning and the students enjoyed being involved in a 'hands-on activity'. The project ended with a relaxing meal at Pizza Express.

The real success of the project was that all the students felt that they had broken down barriers between both state and independent schools **and** between Britain and Germany.

Our students made the following comments:

"I had a few stereotypical views (before the project), like people at The Mount would be posh and annoying and the Germans would be strict, but I was wrong and I'm glad" (Majella Gillan).

"I loved that everyone got along and no-one was left out" (Rebecca Richardson).

Charlotte Wareham, 10 DW, reports on her own experience:

From 26-28 March a group of Year 10 Millthorpe and Mount School students took part in a German exchange project. 11 students from Grünheide near Berlin arrived at 10pm on the Saturday night to be greeted by their host families. A range of educational activities were planned over the 3 days, including a group history presentation (in search of British and German national identity) trips into town and a fun art-based activity. We were also allowed plenty of time to get to know each other and, over the course of the 3 days, we all formed strong friendships. After tea at Pizza Express on the Tuesday night, we had to say goodbye to our new friends from Germany. Everyone involved learned a lot from each other and the new connections we have made between the Mount School and the Philipp-Melanchthon-Gymnasium have been invaluable.

On behalf of all the students involved, I would like to thank Mrs Lingard and Ms Snelson (Mount School) for organising the project and all of their help in preparing for the visit.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT



The school Spring Concert took place on Tuesday 8 February. We had a record number of musicians and dancers (over a 100) performing in various ensembles on the night. The audience were treated to performances from Miss Eames' dancers, Jazz Band, Junior Band, Choir, Concert Band, Keyboard Club and soloists. Many of our musicians are in Year 11 and, after years of dedication and practice, they have become superb musicians with several going on to study music! They will really be missed around the department.

Millthorpe School Jazz Band took part in a Jazz Festival on Friday 11 February. In the afternoon, our jazz band, along with jazz bands from other schools across York, took part in music workshops at York University. They were led by York University music students and included: *Blues workshop, Rhythm workshop, Improvisation workshop or Instrumental Master Classes*. It was a great opportunity for our students to see such a high level of talent and to understand how much hard work and practice it takes to be a musician!

After the workshops our students had a sound and lighting check to prepare them for the evening performance, where they competed against other schools in front of an audience at the university's Sir Jack Lyons Hall. Our students performed brilliantly and, as a result, won several awards which were presented to them by the judges.



Well done to the huge number of students who have taken an ABRSM graded music exam this term. Our musicians have reached some high grades in music and achieved some excellent marks.

MILLTHORPE DOES 'COMIC RELIEF' — £1,885 RAISED



During the week beginning Monday 14 March the Millthorpe 'We R U' School Council organised a week of fundraising fun for Comic Relief.

Students from the school took part in a talent show, with others raising money through selling red noses, baking cakes, taking part in a red-themed non-uniform day and completing sponsored silences. Two students even uni-cycled to Riccall from York, raising over £100.

The students worked incredibly hard, raising the amazing total of £1,885 and beating the previous

school record. Well done to the 'We R U' Team and a MASSIVE THANK YOU to everyone who took part and supported our efforts!

Miss Lamb, Student & Community Co-ordinator 😊



A LETTER FROM MR STEVE SMITH

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Appointment of new Headteacher - Trevor Burton

This will be my final letter/newsletter to you as Executive Headteacher of Millthorpe School. As you will recall, I wrote to all parents/carers in mid-February to inform you that the new Headteacher, Mr Trevor Burton, will take up his post as Headteacher of Millthorpe School when everyone returns after the Easter break on Tuesday 26 April. I have worked with Mr Burton in the past couple of months since his appointment and from those discussions with him, and the rest of the Senior Leadership Team, it is clear that he will bring a sharp perceptive mind, a clear focus on school improvement and a commitment to ensure that only the best will be good enough for Millthorpe School. I am very confident that Mr Burton has the right balance of skills and experience necessary to build on the school's current success and to ensure Millthorpe becomes the outstanding school it deserves to be.

With the appointment of Mr Burton, Millthorpe School is beginning a new chapter. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working with everyone at Millthorpe and would like to thank, on behalf of myself and Mrs Rees, the SLT and the staff (both teaching and support staff) for all their support over that time and in particular for their efforts resulting in the excellent progress that the school has made, and which was recognised by Ofsted following their inspection in January. Finally, I would like to thank you, the parents/carers and students, who also made Mrs Rees and I feel welcome and supported what we were doing. Millthorpe will always have a place in our hearts and I am certain that the strong links forged between Millthorpe and Fulford over the past eighteen months will continue. The Government's White Paper on Education stresses the role of partnerships and the very real and successful partnership developed over this period between Millthorpe and Fulford will, I am sure, continue to flourish to the mutual advantage of both schools.

The term has just flown by and for Year 11 there is only a short time before they go on study leave and start to sit their GCSE exams. Today I spoke to a group of Year 11 students who were finalising their English coursework before the staff begin moderating this on Friday, and it has been good to see the focus and determination of so many youngsters to ensure that they leave with the best possible grades. Although Easter is coming and it is important that all youngsters take a break from their studies, the holiday period is one whereby time also needs to be set aside for revision. All students have been provided with tips on how to draw up their revision timetable, with various strategies to help them get the most out of their revision. This final run-in to the exams is important and it is during this time that students who allocate adequate time for revision go on to fulfil their potential, especially as the first examination, English, is on Monday 16 May, straight after Year 11 go on Study Leave on Friday 13 May!!

Best wishes to you all and have a relaxing break over Easter. School recommences on Tuesday 26 April - for 3 days!

Everyone is then on holiday once more for Prince William's wedding on Friday 29 April and the May Day holiday on the following Monday, 2 May.

Yours sincerely

Steve Smith
Executive Headteacher

**WE WISH ALL OUR
PARENTS & STUDENTS
A "HAPPY EASTER"**

**SCHOOL RE-OPENS ON
TUESDAY 26 APRIL**

