



## **Headteacher's Introduction**

As another busy academic year draws to an end, it is remarkable to think how much has been achieved by so many of our students. As I reflect, I feel very positive about the direction in which the school is developing. I very much hope you enjoy reading this edition of Nelthorpe News which covers a mere selection of the myriad of newsworthy highlights since our last newsletter!

# 161 YEARS!

## **A sad farewell to colleagues....**

**We have a number of staff leaving us this term and we wish them all the very best for their futures. The combined service to the school for all who are moving on totals an astonishing 161 years!!!**

Earlier in the year we said farewell to Mrs Lisa Kerman, having served 8 years as a Science Technician, Mr Harry Melbourne, following a year of service as a Premises Supervisor, and Mrs Kim Welch after 12 years service as a receptionist at Lower School main reception.

Mrs Allyson Golland will retire after 37 years teaching Food Technology, Textiles and Child Development. Mrs Golland was also a highly dedicated Head of Year.

Mr Paul Riess retires after 23 years of service, having taught science, specialising in Chemistry, and in particular, providing high quality input at A Level.

Mrs Kate Marr retires after 15 years of service to the school, teaching Maths at all levels and contributing to the whole school tirelessly throughout.

Also with 15 years of service each, Mrs Carolyn Davis and Mrs Tina Cook are retiring from the Learning Support Department, along with Mrs Kathleen Weston, with 11 years service, all having supported individual students and groups of students through their sterling work as Teaching Assistants.

Mr Keith Franklin retires after 8 years of dedicated service teaching Geography and RE at all levels.

Mrs Tamsin Bennett, our SENCo leaves us to take up post with an alternative provision setting, after 6 years of service to the school, having worked with many individual students and their families, multi-agency groups and key stakeholders.

Mrs Margaret Armstrong retires following 6 years of service teaching Business Studies at KS4 and KS5 as well as ICT at all levels, along with being the Head of Business and ICT.

Miss Elaine Softly retires after 4 years of service specialising in teaching and coordinating RE and also teaching English.

**The school is extremely grateful to all those colleagues who are leaving us, for everything they have done at SJN to make it the best school in North Lincolnshire. We thank them all for their dedication, loyalty and commitment to the students, staff and community. We wish them all the very best for their futures, whatever they are moving on to, and hope that they will keep in touch!**

**Thank you**

I look forward to formally introducing the new staff joining us in September in the next 'new term' letter.

***"The good relationships between students and between students and staff create a positive environment for learning throughout the school." - OFSTED December 2014***

## Support Your Child's Learning (SYCL) Events



Recently Sir John Nelthorpe School hosted its annual 'Support Your Child's Learning' events in both maths, science and English.

Year 5 pupils, who currently attend local primary schools, attended the event with their parents. The idea is to get a taste of what they will learn in their lessons once they move up to secondary school and how parents can get involved.

Current Year 7 pupils were on hand to assist the younger children in a variety of fun activities that included: Punctuation Karate, Word Bingo and Drama. Mr Howe, Assistant Headteacher said he was delighted that so many children and parents attended. The feedback received was really positive so keep an eye on our website for the next events.

### House Chess

Played with a fantastic team spirit and resulting in Pelham being victorious with 16 points. Second place was Taylor with 9 points, an extremely close result for Lardelli with 8 points and Eccles scored 3 points. Well done to all who competed.



### Y8 Outwardbound in The Lakes

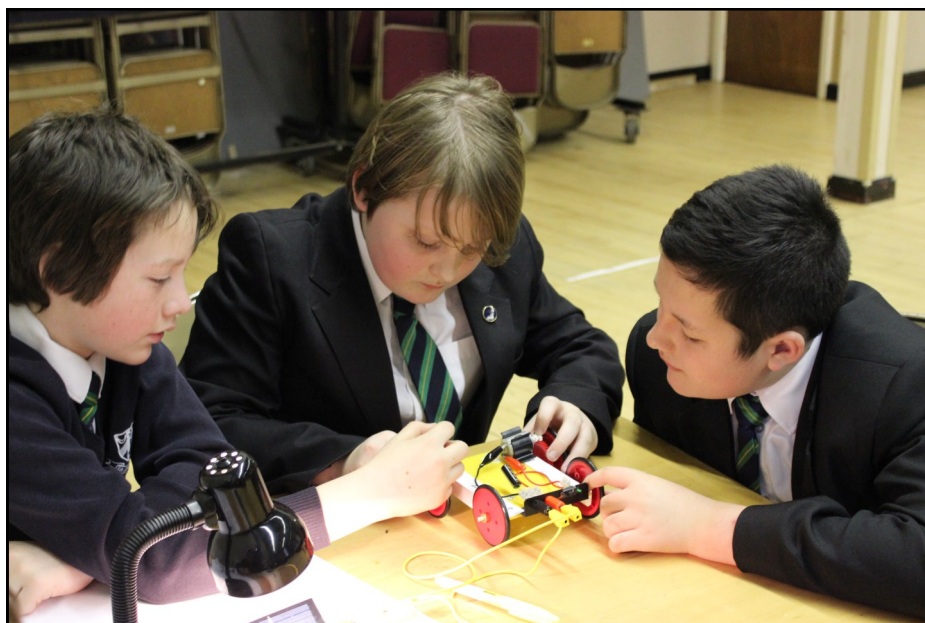
Set in 18 acres of woodland at the heart of Wordsworth country, Year 8 pupils visited the Ullswater outdoor education centre based on the north shore of the lake. Team building activities and challenges were set throughout the stay which is an annual offer to our pupils.



THE  
OUTWARD  
BOUND TRUST

### Year 8 STEM Challenge

Year 8 pupils, seen here, took on the challenge of powering vehicles with only solar power whilst they were considered a low carbon future.



## Exams Season Success

The 'final hurdle'... the opportunity to demonstrate all the knowledge, skills and understanding gained over their time in lessons at SJN!!! That's what our Year 11 and 13 GCSE and A Level students faced this June..... and how well they conducted themselves too! It was a privilege to observe our students entering their examination sessions with such composure and determination. I am sure this has been helped in no small way by the dedication of all the staff who have provided the support and encouragement needed along the way. Parents too must take credit for supporting, cajoling, persisting and encouraging 'til the end. There is now time for all our examination students to take a well-deserved break from things and indulge in some 'less stressful' pursuits. Whatever our Year 11 and 13 students choose to do now, we look forward to seeing them again in August when the results of their efforts will be released at school. This is an understandably anxious moment for all involved but we make sure on results day that our experienced staff are on hand to help, guide and support you, so don't worry! Well done all!



## Rotary Young Writers by Mr Waite

In April a number of students entered the Rotary club Young Writers Competition. The title was 'Our World Is Beautiful'.

Four SJN students from year nine had their work selected to represent this area in the regional final. They were Henry Freudenberg, Mary Pye, Abi Smith-Portress and Grace Wilson. After stiff competition Abi's work was judged winner of the District, beating entries from 44 other clubs stretching from Lincoln to Barnsley. It will now go forward to the national finals. The prizes and certificates will be presented by Nick Wells, President of Brigg Rotary club.

Thanks to Brigg Rotary Club who organised the local heats of the competition.

Abi's winning entry is below:

### *Our World is Beautiful*

*The meadow sleeps under the watchful eye of the rising sun. Slowly rising up into the early morning sky, it displays hundreds of shades of vibrant colours, red to orange, yellow to green, even blues and violets. The sky gradually transforms from the sleepy blackness of night to the tranquil warm orange of morning and finally to the calming pale blue of daytime.*

*The birds sense the change in the atmosphere and, each sitting in their own tree, begin to sing a beautiful melody. All perfectly in tune, singing in time.*



## Brigg Live Arts By Mrs Barnes-White

On Saturday 7th July a group of students from SJN took part in the Brigg Live music event, performing two 30-minute sets at the bandstand. Students from the GCSE Music group (Chloe Harding, Megan Springall, Tegan Lowry, Joe Dickinson, Sophie Thompson, Adam Clarvis, Sam Lewis and Ben Marshall) were joined by members of the SJN Choir (Victoria Cook, Hannah Herron, Jess Carter-Lyle and Sylvia Black).

Braving a cold wind and demonstrating a very professional and adult attitude they performed a range of songs including Summertime Sadness, Somewhere Over the Rainbow and Bittersweet Symphony. There were not a huge number in the audience for the first set, but by the time our chance came to perform again a fair number of people were in the marketplace and stopped to listen and applaud.

The attitude and behaviour of all the students involved were a credit to the school and the event itself was an important stepping-stone for their development as musicians.



## A Maths Challenge for Year 10 By Mrs Chaffe

In March, two teams of four year 10 students attended 'Maths Feast 2016'. Sixteen schools from Lincolnshire and Yorkshire competed at the competition in Grimsby. One round involved an investigation to enclose the greatest area possible using the twelve unique pentominoes which they had to find first. The last round challenged the students to work with an A level topic involving complex numbers. Congratulations to team 1 - Sam Lewis, George Stewart, Alex Elmore and Peter O'Hara and Team 2 - Adam Clarvis, Sophie Thomson, Toby Traviss and William Pople.

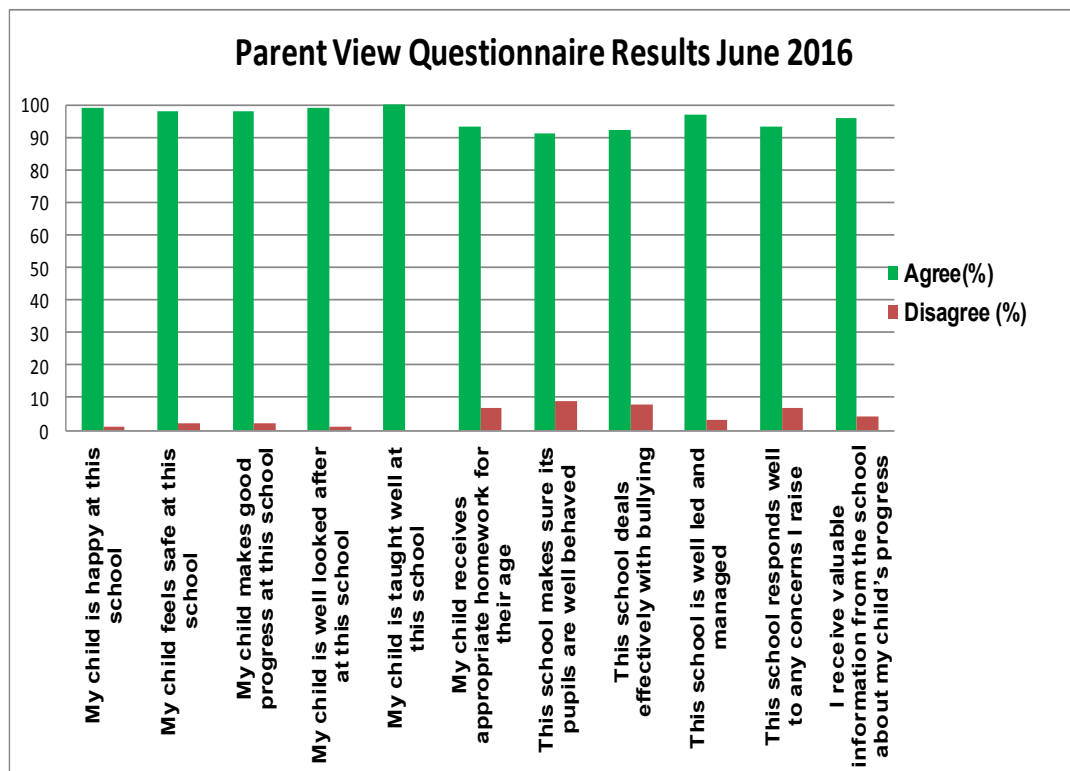
## School Day Consultation

Following the consultation on a proposed change to the timings of the school day, the Governors have confirmed the school day will now finish at 3.25pm from September, as opposed to the current finish time of 3.20pm. There is no impact on bus or public transport arrangements, but parents, particularly those who collect their child at the end of the school day should note this adjustment of 5 minutes.



## Parent View Survey

A huge thank you to nearly 200 parents who completed our recent survey; results shown above. It was great to receive such overwhelmingly positive feedback, where 99% of parents would recommend our school to others. It is clear that we are moving in the right direction. Please be assured that our governors, staff and pupils (through the school council), will be seeking ways to further improve the aspects you felt less confident with.



## German Exchange

A group of 20 students from Y9 and Y10 (along with one of our A level German students) will take part in the German Exchange in September this year. They will be travelling to

Hull on Monday 12th September to start their journey to Gymnasium Leoninum in Handrup, Germany. While in Germany they will be staying with their exchange partners and attending school, as well as taking part in trips to the local area.

We will be celebrating 30 years of the exchange this year and would appreciate photos from any staff or students who have taken part over the past 30 years, so a display of the Exchange Visits through the years can be arranged for the return trip of Gymnasium Leoninum to SJN in the spring term.

**Mrs Downie**



## Charity Events News

Three recently held events raised £1200 for charities nominated by our staff and pupils. The annual 'Fun Run' donated money to The British Heart Foundation and When You Wish Upon A Star. Whilst Diabetes U.K. was presented with £400 from activities and events organised by Year 10 Krystal Clark. Krystal wanted to raise awareness of her condition and that it should not stop you from enjoying and participating in all that school life has to offer.



## Science has the WOW FACTOR

A science day at Sir John Nelthorpe certainly had plenty of wow factor to inspire pupils.

Bob Kiddle, from the Institute of Physics, put on three shows for pupils at the school about the power of physics. Head of science Mr Hawley said his efforts were rewarded with lots of “wows and gasps” from impressed students.

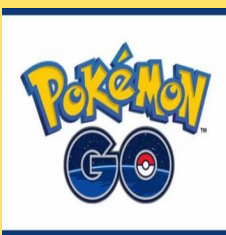
“There’s a push by the Government to get more girls into science and think about it for career choices,” he said.

“The shows were like ‘big bang’ in style, just brilliant and got the message across that physics is fun and applies to pupils’ lives now and the wider world .”



## Online safety

Please visit our ‘E-Safety’ section on our website for lots of useful advice and information about this important aspect of all our lives. There’s even a news item on our website providing information about the latest ‘Pokemon Go’ app that has captured the imaginations of so many around the world, but for which there are numerous significant risks.



## Capital Funding “Key to Securing Ongoing Success”



Pictured from left to right: Andrew Percy (MP), Mr R. Biglands (Headteacher) and Cllr. Rob Waltham.

The allocation from the Local Authority of capital funding for upgrades to our services (electrical, heating and roofing) is very welcome. The figure of over £1m will hopefully be just the start of investment in supporting this, the highest performing school in the area, in its endeavours to continue to provide the very best education for its students well into the future.

The work is now underway and will be completed on a phased basis, starting at the Main Block at Upper School. This important work means that we have to close our main reception facility over the summer break, so it is essential that anyone needing to contact the school should do so by telephone or email to ensure a timely response.

Thank you very much for your cooperation during this time of upheaval. We will do everything we can to ensure a quality of service to you. Our number one priority is to ensure that the works do not impact negatively on student learning, and that the works lead to further improvements overall in our service provision.

## Refurbishment work

Work has started on various improvements around the school site, and will continue through the Summer break. Our Sixth Form study and resources area will be moving from the Boarding House to a dedicated area at Lower School. There are significant improvements being made to our Sixth Form Provision at all levels, and the new dedicated facilities at the Vale Academy, to be opened in January 2017 will further enhance the experience our students receive.

Our Pupil Reception area at Upper School (Grammar School Road) is being upgraded to provide a more suitable environment for our students and parents and carers who visit us.

ICT facilities have been undergoing an overhaul to ensure they are fit for purpose and conducive to the highest of standards in learning. Part of the capital investment from the Local Authority also includes the installation of air conditioning in these rooms.

Our music classrooms are also being re-configured to improve this important aspect of our curriculum.

The Maths, Business and ICT Faculty will be moving from Lower School to the Boarding House over the summer break, and in turn, the History and RE departments will move from the Boarding House to Lower School to join the Geography department as a combined Humanities Faculty.



## World Challenge take on Bolivia!

On the 7th July, we said bon voyage to our World Challenge Expedition Team (Mr Brister, Mrs Cook, and 6 students—Heather Bowers, Ben Botham, Josh Blanchard, Ross Tandon, Lucy Hancock and Archie Swain) as they set off for an exhilarating and life-changing trip to Bolivia. This 'once in a lifetime' opportunity has not been easily secured though, with each of the students having to raise £4,000 towards the cost of the expedition which sees students supporting local charitable projects, supporting efforts to improve opportunities for people less fortunate than ourselves, as well as learning all about a very different culture in a very different part of the world to our own. Updates of the students' progress have been posted on our school Twitter feed @SJNBrigg and on the school PE Faculty Twitter feed @SjnPeDept. We congratulate these ambassadors for the school in their endeavours and we look forward to their return to school when we can hear all about their adventures. Well done to all, and thank you to all those who gave so generously to the fund-raising campaign.



## Tag Rugby a Great Success

Local primary schools took part in a tag rugby event, hosted by SJN. Our GCSE P.E. students lead this after-school event which was clearly enjoyed by all.



## "Every Day Counts"

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem that much but...

If your child misses	that equals...	which is...	and over 13 years of school that's...
1 day a fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 day a week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 Years
3 days a week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

## The effect of absence on progress

A whole year has 365 days; a school year has 190 days. That leaves 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping and other appointments.

No Absence	10 days absence	12 days absence	19 days absence	29 days absence	38 days absence
190 days of education	180 days of education	178 days of education	171 days of education	161 days of education	152 days of education
100%	95%	94%	90%	85%	80.00%
Very Good	Worrying			Serious Concern	

How about 10 minutes a day? Surely that won't affect my child

A big thank you to students and parents who have supported our drive to improve attendance this year. Last year we set out to raise individual and overall attendance to 96% (95% last year). We are very pleased to say this has been achieved, but we feel with your continued commitment to high attendance rates for your children, we can raise this even further next year. It is clear from the graphic above, that the more time a child is in school, the more they will achieve.

## Water-skiing Wonder

Year 9 student, and dedicated water-skiing competitor, Marcus Robinson has been ranked first in the European competition for Slalom in the Under 14 Male category. This now places Marcus as fourth in the overall European rankings, and the top performing British competitor. An outstanding accolade and a true testament to Marcus' dedication to this sport. Well done!

Pictured right: Marcus in action in one of his events



# Sports Presentation Evening



Friday 10th June witnessed the Sir John Nelthorpe school P.E. department hold its inaugural Sports Presentation Evening to celebrate sporting achievement. There were a variety of awards presented on the evening by our very special guests, Tim and Keith Robinson from Scunthorpe Rugby Union Football Club. The room was packed full of deserving nominees and proud parents.

Held in the style of a TV event, nominees were announced and videos of their performances

shown. Nominees were interviewed by Mr Belton in front of a live audience before the winning nominee was announced. Staff and pupils had voted in advance but winners were kept in the dark until our guests opened an envelope revealing the name of the award's recipient.

The Rising Star Award was presented to a Year 7 Millie Smith for her achievements in table tennis. Whilst the award for Outstanding Achievement Outside of School was jointly presented to brothers Oliver and William Thirkettle for karate.

## ***Karate Stars Compete at the Top, representing England***

"We arrived in Frankfurt Hahn early on Friday morning and had a relaxing day ready for the competition on Saturday. The event was very well attended by over 1500 competitors. There was several different competitions being held including traditional karate.

Oliver was in the Kumite class and after waiting all day was up against several opponents from Europe evenly matched to him. After dislocating his knee earlier in the year this was always going to be a difficult competition. Nevertheless, Oliver came in third place and picked up a bronze trophy

William participated both Kata, and Kumite. In the Kata class William performed an excellent routine and was only pipped at the post by one point for a trophy.

In the Kumite class William beat a very experienced opponent in the first round but unfortunately he had to retire in his second fight due to a dislocated knuckle that he picked up in his first fight but was unaware of at the time.

Younger sister, Charlotte, who starts in Year 7 at SJN in September surprised everyone by agreeing to fight up a level with girls up to the age of 14! As Charlotte was only 10 this was a very brave decision. In Charlotte's own age group category the only opponent decided not to fight and Charlotte was awarded a gold trophy. In the higher group Charlotte beat all her older opponents to again pick up the gold trophy which she thoroughly deserved.

All in all it was a fantastic weekend and the England coach has selected all 3 children to represent England in Florida at the world championships in September and again in Spain in October."

Well done to Oliver, William and Charlotte and many thanks to the support and generosity shown by those who helped raise funds to cover the costs of travel and accommodation for the team, including The Nelthorpe Trust (a charitable trust established by Sir John Nelthorpe himself) who agreed to contribute also, and who seek to support worthy causes for students who attend the school.



Left: The 'Brigg' England Team



Right: Oliver, William and Charlotte with the Head Coach of the England team



## ***A selection of sporting successes at SJN***



***Year 9 Girls Six-A-Side Soccer Team***



***Year 10 Scunthorpe & District Soccer Cup Finalists***



***Key Stage 3 Dodgeball Humber Games Finalists***



### ***Rugby Leadership***

Archie Swain, one of our top Year 11 rugby players, shared his skills and knowledge during coaching and leadership sessions with our Year 8 pupils.

### ***Track & Field Cup***

A fantastic day in very hot conditions saw our students compete against some top athletes from Hull schools such as Hymers, Longcroft and Wolferton. Individual successes for Adam Simms (Y8) 1st in hurdles and joint 1st in high jump; Anna Cavill (Y8) 1st in 200m and 2nd in long jump; Ben Lingard (Y10) 1st in 200m and Sara Towers (Y9) 1st in 800m. The year 10 girls relay team of Mia Wild, Holly Newell, Chelsea Shaw and Heather Bowers also won their relay race. All students were excellent ambassadors for the school.



***Year 11 Soccer Cup Finalists***

