

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of our second year we are providing you with a bumper newsletter, celebrating with you all we have achieved throughout the year.

We have taken a new theme in each newsletter to introduce to you members of Red House Academy Trust, who govern the Academy. The first three – Paul Callaghan, Peter Fidler and Councillor Bryan Charlton are also representative of our sponsors. Paul is lead sponsor, Chairman of Leighton, Peter is in charge of Sunderland University and Brian represents the Council. The Trust, together with our Governors, does a sterling job supporting us in all we do. They also have the role of challenging us and ensuring high quality deliverance to your children. The reputation of the Academy has grown over the last two years. We have so many children wanting to come to the school that we are facing appeals because we are over-subscribed. That is a very good sign of your confidence in us and it is a view that is constantly reinforced to me from feedback from the community and people who ring me up to praise the manners or behaviour of our students outside of school. Inevitably, we have a couple who have let us down, but the message is largely good news.

We take the idea of community very seriously and it is constantly reinforced to our students through our House system, P.S.E. and Citizenship. Student responsibility is evidenced by the lack of litter, graffiti and damage in the school. Visitors comment on its calmness, and cleanliness, and despite the fact our walls are cream, we have had no need for redecoration. Unfortunately, when our students leave us to go into the estate, they do not always



transfer Academy rules into social behaviour. I do seek your support in this, ensuring your children, who are wearing our uniform to and from school, represent us all well.

I think you will be astounded when you read the newsletter just how many opportunities your children have had to get involved in a myriad of activities from visits abroad, entertaining foreign visitors, curriculum activities, fund-raising activities and competitions. If your child has not been involved, please encourage them to come forward.

I wish you all a happy summer holiday and hope we get the weather to enjoy it. As I am writing this I realise that the next time you receive a newsletter I will be telling you about our first visit to Ghana and the experience of our staff (including myself) and students. I look forward to that story.

Thérèse Quincey

The Big Summer Newsletter

Welcome to our newsletter. This is made up of the various newsletters that have been produced over this school year. When you read it I think you will be surprised that so much has happened over just one school year. Our students and staff have been incredibly busy, inside the Academy around the community and away from the Academy. I hope you enjoy reading this.

Mrs Moir

The Press Pack members have interviewed each of our lead sponsors, so that we could introduce them to you.



Paul Callaghan

Lead Sponsor of Red House Academy

Paul is Chairman of Leighton, the North East based technology, software, media and communications group that he founded. Leighton operates at the cutting edge of new technology and currently has six companies based in the North East that lead the UK in their respective markets.

Paul was born in Sunderland and grew up in Leighton Road and now lives in Ashbrooke. He was educated at St Mary's and St Aidan's schools and began his career as a research economist in Gateshead. With a first degree in Economics from the London School of Economics, a Masters degree in Management and Education from Newcastle University and a further Masters degree in Finance and Economics from the University of Salford, he is the author or editor of 16 books and numerous articles on business and IT. Featured as one of the 'Passionate People' in ONE North East's award-winning Regional Image campaign 'Passionate People, Passionate Places' he is genuinely passionate about helping the North East region to grow and prosper. He believes that this is only possible by extending education, developing a talented and well-educated population and nurturing and encouraging entrepreneurs and business.

On the 1st of February 2011 the Press Pack went to The Leighton Group to interview Mr Callaghan. We went into the Boardroom and sat with him to ask him a few questions.

How many industries have you worked for?

Mr Callaghan replied: Well for starters my first job was as an Economist. Later I then became a Lecturer and started to write books on business. After that I became a publisher for 10 – 11 years with books mostly on education. This was before the Internet really got going. I then set up an IT business company and called it Leighton after the street where my Mum lives. So the total number of industries I have worked for is four.

Do you sponsor any other Schools?

Mr Callaghan replied: Yes I do. I am linked with a school in Ghana, West Africa. I am also linked with a Health Centre in Ruanda, East Africa.

Do you love your job?

Mr Callaghan replied: I absolutely love my job and I work with some amazing people, both here, at One North East and at Red House Academy.

I am very comfortable with my job and where I work. This is a good place to concentrate and work hard and my colleges are also cooperative. I am proud of Red House Academy and the way it has developed over the past year.

How have you helped the Academy?

In 2004 I was having Christmas dinner at Durham Country Cricket club when the club leader asked me to help them try and build schools in Sunderland. I wanted to help learning for children in Sunderland so I said I would get involved.

I think the staff are great and Dr. Quincey is an amazing head teacher. They work very hard for the children's learning and to keep the academy clean.

Other Information: Mr Callaghan is working on a book called "My Sunderland" with Niall Quinn (Sunderland Chairman)

Is it hard to be who you are, and why?

Mr Callaghan: As I got older I struggled even more, but every day I get up with the slight sense of nerves but I face my fear and do what I have to do. I also get the slightest bit of nerves when I post important letters in case they don't get to the destination on time or they get lost in the post.

All members of the Press Pack

Professor Fidler



Professor Fidler was born and went to school in Oldham, Manchester. He went to university in Oxford to the School of Architecture. His professorship is in town planning.

He loves his job at the university and he loves this city. He particularly likes the fact that all of us are working together to get everything connected, from primary school to the university.

We asked, "How did you get involved with the Trust?"

He answered- "I was invited to a meeting with Paul Callaghan where we were asked to be involved. We both decided we wanted to be involved and so got stuck in. When we were told which schools we could be helping and were asked which one we wanted to be part of, we both chose Red House Academy. As soon as we had made that decision we came to the old Hylton Red House Comprehensive to look around. The new school is so much better as it has cleaner grounds, better classrooms and up to date equipment."

He claimed that Dr Quincey is very good at getting people involved, though he did hint that she twists people's arms behind their backs to get things done for the Academy!!!!!!

He said the teachers are great. He also said, more than once, that he is only a young man.

Professor Fidler said he helps our school because he likes to help us to improve and to gain a reputation as a good school.

We asked, "Do you like your job?"

Professor Fidler replied, with an excited, "YES I love my job. The most rewarding part of my job is looking forward, then working with and being a part of the Trust."

Professor Fidler's Favourite things are:
Game - football

Music - classical and jazz
Hobbies - reading and travelling
Book – ‘Alice in Sunderland’ (non-fiction)
Holiday location - Australia
Food - steak or pasta
Drink - tea or soda water

The Academy Press Pack

Cllr Bryan Charlton



Bryan Charlton is a councillor, representing Sunderland Council which sponsors our school. He gets on well with other sponsors.

He used to have links with other schools and helping other schools, but now he just helps our school. He has been working with our school for 25 years. He loves the idea of the press pack and loves working and helping us with our school. He is really proud of us.

Bryan Charlton really likes his job; he thinks that it is a great honour, he loves getting praised by people and he loves working and interacting with the public. He got a diploma in university.

He used to work on building sites, and then went on to be a counsellor for 12 years.

His hobbies are football and horserace gambling and he really loves his family

The Academy Press Pack.

Just look at what has happened this year in the Academy!

Head Girl and Head Boy

Elections took place in September for Head Boy and Head Girl. Students and staff across the Academy were invited to vote having received and considered a manifesto from each candidate. The results are as follows:

Head Girl	Lucy McKellar
Deputy Head Girl	Abbey Burnett
Head Boy	James Redford
Deputy Head Boy	Craig McKenzie

Red House Academy House System

At the end of last year we developed a system of four Houses made up of Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 tutor groups. The pupils were responsible for designing the logos and developing the House values.

Swan House is named after the imaginative Engineer Joseph Swan who designed the first Light bulb. The logo for this House, as shown, incorporates Swan's approach to Engineering (designing the light bulb). The values for this house include teamwork and sustainability and which is reflected in the Swan House mission statement 'To plan for a suitable and successful future'. Armstrong House is a representation of the local Engineer William Armstrong, whose innovative ideas about bridges and the water wheel are incorporated into the logo. The values for Armstrong House include innovation and imagination and the mission statement for this house is 'To develop innovative ideas and use our imagination in our learning'.

The female engineers are represented by Amelia Earhart, the first female pilot to attempt the Atlantic crossing, and Rosalind Franklin, a scientist, who overcame many issues regarding sexism to help identify the structure of DNA. Franklin House values include honesty and awareness with a mission statement of 'To ensure the inclusion of every learner whilst developing independence and teamwork' and Earhart House includes the values persistence and adventure and its mission statement is 'To explore our ideas and aspirations'. The house system also reflects a priority for the Academy; to ensure every learner is S A F E. Competitions will run throughout each year awarding prizes and trips to the winning House at the end of each year.



Construct Your Life/ Engineer Your Future Presentation



At the end of September, all Year 10 and 11 students attended the 'Construct Your Life/Engineer Your Future' event, held in the Lecture Theatre of the Academy. The presentation was a dynamic and motivational presentation aimed at informing students of the vast array of career opportunities within the Engineering Construction industry.



The afternoon was extremely successful and was enjoyed by both students and staff.

Humanities

'Show Racism the Red Card' spent the day working with Year 7 on September 29th 2010. The day, which involved a mixture of workshops and football fitness sessions, was a great success and the feedback from students was very positive. Three ex-professional footballers from the North-East were among the team which came in: Gary Bennett (ex-Sunderland), Olivier Bernard (ex-Newcastle) and Dean Gordon (ex-Boro).



Musical theatre

1 in 10 Learn Instruments

This year has seen a boom in Music at Red House Academy, with around 60 children attending instrumental and vocal lessons. This means that about 1 in 10 children in the Academy are taking advantage of this fantastic opportunity.

The lessons are provided in school through Sunderland Music Service with high quality tutors in guitar, drums, woodwind, brass and singing delivering lessons on a weekly basis. Head of Musical Theatre, Miss Tindall said "The students are very keen to learn instruments and sing and are often in the department practicing for their lessons. This is really paying off as many of them are making excellent progress. I can't believe how much the department has progressed in just over a year since the Academy opened." The lessons cost just £20 a term and there are still places for new starters in trumpet lessons. Red House Academy students should contact Miss Tindall in the Music Department for more information about starting trumpet lessons.

New Music Course for Budding Musicians

Keen musicians at KS4 now have the chance to gain a BTEC qualification in Music, which is equivalent to 2 GCSEs. The new Extended Certificate in Music has commenced this year, with students completing topics in Performing, Composing and the Music Industry. The students are currently working on composing an ambient piece for a series of art works, having already completed a Blues piece. They are also rehearsing for a performance in primary schools and are creating a radio programme about different job roles in the music industry. They enjoy the hands-on approach with all topics having a relationship to actual scenarios in the music industry.

Musical Adults – We Need You!

A long-awaited Community Choir is about to start in Red House Academy, open to all adults in the Sunderland area. Staff, parents and friends are being invited to attend the first rehearsal on Wednesday 3rd November at 4pm. The choir will be informal, singing songs of different styles. No previous experience necessary – just come along, have fun and maybe find that voice you never knew you had! Please contact Miss Tindall at Red House Academy if you require any further information. We look forward to seeing you!

Community Cohesion Partnership Working with Crystal Dome

A N-ice Surprise for Red House Academy Pupils
What an amazing week for the local community of Red House!



Over 1800 young people took to the ice and enjoyed a skating experience.

Bringing the ice rink to the Academy allowed all community members to be involved. Ice dance stars, Andrei Lipanov and Susie Lipanova worked with pupils from Red House Academy, Bishop Harland and Red House Primary.

Senior Maths Challenge

Red House Academy took part in the UK Mathematical Challenges this year.

In the Senior Maths Challenge Jason Beattie achieved the Best in School Award.

In the Intermediate Maths Challenge Daniel Adey achieve the Best in School Award as well as a Bronze certificate. Bronze certificates also went to Ciaran Howe-Hartley, Mica Anderson, Adam Herkes, Callum Burdis and Victoria Dugdale.

In the Junior Maths Challenge Kester Field achieved the Best in School Award as well as a Gold certificate. Jasmine Baird also achieved a Gold

certificate. These are the first Gold certificates achieved by any Red House Academy students in any of the Challenges. Brooke Anderson achieved Silver certificate. Bronze certificates went to Jordan Drury, Jordan Anderson, Sophie Buckley, Bailey Baker, Alisha Prest, Kieron Davison, Megan Cooke and Rebecca Southam.

The Maths Department are very proud of all the students who participated in all year groups. We look forward to future successes so look out for the Challenges next year.

Miss Heslop

Apple Day

The Transition Group were invited to the RHAY centre for their Apple Day. The purpose of the event was to expose the students to the various types of apples that are available, other than Granny Smiths and Golden Delicious.

There were all types of "exotic" apples for them to taste, including apple juices which they thought tasted like perfume!

The RHAY centre had also set up carnival games for them to play such as an "apple (coconut) shy" and "pin the stalk on the apple(!)"

Miss Jaitay



November

A large proportion of the male staff donated their faces to charity for the month of November. Each member of staff participating was given the task of entering the Academy on the first of November with a face as smooth as a baby's bottom. From that moment on each 'Mo Bro' then had to cultivate a moustache for the entire of the month of November. However within this task there was a strict set of rules for each obliging 'Mo Bro' to contend with. There was to be no joining of the side burns to the 'tache' as this would be considered a beard, there was to be no joining of the 'tache' and handlebars

across the chin this would be considered a goatee; at all times 'Mo Bro's' also had to conduct themselves as a true gentleman. Any deviation from this would amount to a breaking of the rules. Throughout the month it was a constant source of amusement for the students and female members of staff that allowed for some great banter with the 'Mo Bro's'. A few less dedicated brothers were reported to have asked the Principal for an outright ban on the 'tache', however this absurd request was correctly knocked back. The Academy gained praise from the School Improvement Officer who said "It is only in a school like ours where you see this kind of interaction between pupils and staff".

As the month wore on the strain began to show and there was wide spread itching going on but there was no let up as the 'Mo Bro's' gallantly kept their 'taches' going and even Jake and Mr Thirlwell started to show signs of some hair growth. Mr Thirlwell had already been castigated by both staff and pupils for an attempted photoshop to improve his effort. Mr Kernan arguably came up with the best 'tache' of the month.

The reason for all our suffering was to raise awareness for prostate cancer and the end of the month culminated in a collection for charity. It remains to be seen as to whether we will have a repeat next year as there have been widespread murmurings of divorce threats etc.

Mr Bains

November Organiser

The Academy meets children's author Steve Cole

On Thursday 18th November, Mr Kernan and Miss Nelson took 14 selected year 7 students to the City of Sunderland library to meet with a much loved children's author Steve Cole.



The students proved a real credit to the Academy amongst students from Sunderland High School, St Anthony's Girl School and Barbra Priestman School. The four best behaved students were awarded with a copy of Steve's latest hit, 'Z-Rex', which they asked Steve to sign for them.

The students who went were chosen because of their dedication and success in the Academy's Accelerated Reader Scheme and their positive behaviour in English and around the school.

Another successful day out, enjoyed by all!

Chef of the Week

During the Autumn term the Design & Technology department introduced a new reward system in Food, Hospitality and Catering. Each week the class teachers select two students from each group whom they believe deserve to be awarded 'Chef of the Week' or 'Dedicated Worker of the Week'.

The students are presented with a certificate and their name is added to the wall of honour to celebrate their achievement. A range of criteria is used to select the winner including recognition for creative and innovative work, good organisational skills, and the ability to work as an independent learner and being able to work as part of a team.

Ms McNab

There's Nothing Like The Community Choir!

Around 20 adults have joined together to create the brand new Red House Community Choir, based in the Academy.

The choir, made up of men and women, staff, friends and parents, have been meeting once a week to rehearse songs and the choir has been praised by Sunderland Music Service as one of its kind in the area.

An Insider's View of the Community Choir

As a member of the Red House Community Choir, I am privileged, every Wednesday after school, to sing my heart out (tunefully or not) with colleagues and friends of the Academy. We have only been together for little over a month, however in that time we have managed to master the demands of a three part harmony version of the classic 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough' and sing in a 'round' without it sounding too much like a square.

For me, the best thing about the choir is that enjoyment comes before perfection and we laugh more than we squabble. Watch this space for future gigs; this year Red House Lecture Theatre, next year the Royal Albert Hall!

Mrs Rodgers

Musical Inspiration for a Younger Generation

'Young Sounds' is the group created by the year 10 BTEC Music class. 'Musical Inspiration for a Younger Generation' is their slogan – and this is exactly what they hope to achieve.

The group of 8 students have decided as part of their course, to put a performance and a lesson together to deliver to year 4 children in local primary schools.

They have already visited Hylton Red House Primary School and got a 5-star rating from the children there, who listened to a performance, tried out different instruments and then learned how to make an instrument from scrap materials.

'Young Sounds' wanted to do this project as a way of showing their thanks for the brilliant musical opportunities they have had since the Academy opened and, of course, passing on their knowledge from the last year of musical education.

Thomas Spence (year 10, drummer) said: "I would never have thought of learning an instrument before. But now, with all these opportunities, I have drum lessons, am in a band and have done loads of performances."



Miss Tindall

Red House Youth Theatre Hits the Right Note!

Red House Youth Theatre has auditioned and reached the final of 'The City Sings' competition in

Sunderland!

This makes history as it is the first time that the school has reached this stage and the group had to endure a nail-biting audition to get there! The group of 30 singers will be competing against other schools, all of whom have won the competition before, in the final at the Sunderland Empire on Sunday March 13th.

Miss Tindall

The Past, Present and Future Garden

Friday 5th November was a moving day for the Academy.

We held two ceremonies to open the past, present and future gardens.

During the first, Mr Johnson's memorial plaque was unveiled. Mr Johnson had been a caretaker at Hylton Red House School but sadly died two years ago. The plaque was unveiled by Mr Johnson's widow. She said she was very proud to have him remembered in this way. She also liked the idea of releasing the balloons for the year 11's last year with us.

We also remembered Michael Tench, an ex-pupil and member of the army, who was killed in Iraq. One of our Governors commented on the many nice things said about her friend Mr Johnson and loved the way of remembering him forever. She also loved the singing by the school choir, who sang 'The Rose'. Mr Lane was very proud of the presentation for his friend and co-worker.

At the second ceremony a tree was planted in memory of Mr Robertson who sadly died just a few weeks ago. Many of his family attended and his two sons planted the tree.

It was very emotional occasion for Mrs Robertson but she was able to give us an interview. She felt very touched by everyone's care for her husband and that the tree was a very appropriate and loving reminder of him, 'an excellent symbol that will grow like the school, a constant reminder of him and his work for the Academy.' She had been particularly moved by all the kind comments about Mr Robertson, from both students and staff alike.

After the ceremony everyone returned to the RHAY centre for hot drinks and cupcakes. There, we were able to interview Dr Quincey who said she was very grateful to all those people who were responsible for planning and preparing the ceremonies. She

feels the name is very appropriate for the garden, because it represents the past, present and future for the Academy and the students.

Mr Callaghan, our lead sponsor, said 'I think that the tree is an excellent symbol that will grow strong and tall like the school and that it's a constant reminder of Robbie.' He also said how Robbie knew how he wanted the Academy to be and that his dream had come true.



Written by Press Pack members Matthew Potts, Adam Ramsay and Lewis Lister

The Time Capsule

We interviewed our science teacher, Miss Parrott, about the Past, Present and Future gardens.

She told us that the Past Garden is where we remember the people that we used to know, particularly Mr Robertson, once our vice-principal, Michael Tench, an ex-pupil and Mr Johnson, once our caretaker.

The Present Garden is to represent now and includes our school houses, Swan, Armstrong, Franklin and Earhart. We are going to put a time capsule into this garden and in it include items which represent our time now, such as photos, newspapers and our Academy tie and house badges. Each house will put their own items into the capsule to represent our time at the Academy.

In the Future Garden we are going to put down some stepping stones to represent our aspirations for the future. Each tutor group will decide on their own aspirations – maybe a bright future or good grades?
Written by Press Pack members Natasha Knowles and Danielle Warwick

What it is like to be in the Christmas concert.

I performed at the 2010 Red House Academy (RHA) Christmas Concert as part of the RHA BTEC Music

class who performed 'Twist And Shout' by 'The Beatles', I am also a part of the Academy's very own band who performed 'Mollys Chambers' by Kings Of Leon, and finally I am a member of the band 'Red Tuesday' who were set up by five friends who go to school at Red House but the band is an out of school project, 'Red Tuesday' performed two songs instead of just one and the songs were 'Hate To Say I Told You So' by 'The Hives' and 'When The Sun Goes Down' by 'Arctic Monkeys'.

It is complicated being part of a band (or bands in my case) and for me the hardest part of it is keeping everyone happy and content in the band. It is also difficult and frustrating trying to decide which song to play because one member might disagree with the song or they might have difficulties playing the song.

When we were rehearsing for the Christmas concert we must have played each song about seven times each and I was really tired by the end, but the band and I really enjoy rehearsing because it is fun and enjoyable. It also brings us closer together as not only just a band but as friends as well.

Before the concert I wasn't really nervous as I had preformed about 5 times before so as we went on to perform our first song of the night 'Twist And Shout' we had no nerves what so ever to be honest. The time came later in the show when we had to close the first half of the show with 'When The Sun Goes Down' and for those of you who know the song I'm sure you will agree it is a very hard song to play and I had never performed that song before. The song went ok but I did think I messed up a little bit but still the night went on and we got even closer to our final songs of the night, We went on to play 'Hate To Say I Told You So' and 'Mollys Cambers' and even though we had never played these songs before I knew that they would be ok as they were brilliant in rehearsals. We played the last two songs of the night and they were brilliant.

The night was a success and the band and I really enjoyed it. If it wasn't for Miss Tindall being employed by the Academy then we may never have had any of the opportunities that we have had. For example in year 8 of the old school I would never have thought I would be performing in front of crowds in a band with my friends, having a really great time.

I think that if you ever have the opportunity to do what I am doing, then give it a go because it is a really great experience.

Thomas Spence - Press Pack and band member

The Christmas Concert – as I watch from the audience

Miss Tindall introduces the first act, 'Young Sound' who won an award. This was an impressive first song and excellent start to the concert!

Red House Youth Theatre were in the final at a competition; what a confident performance with inspiring solos during the song.

'Last Christmas' - four people using one drum kit!!! There are four guitarists in a group playing 'Cringles Bells.' The same group of year 7 pupils then play 'Silent Night'. They all take instrument lessons in our school.

Next a different year 7 group play 'Rudolph' and the audience sing along with the guitar beat. A year 8 student plays a classical piece on the piano; talented performance. A year 10 student plays 'The Greatest Love Song of All', with an excellent and outstanding solo. The Community choir sing 'When a child is born' and 'I walked to the end of the road', with a full choir effect and great solos during the songs.

The Red House Youth Theatre perform a dance to 'We are Golden' which fills the audience with excitement. The next act is called 'Red Tuesday', named such because their work books are red on Tuesdays! They play 'When the sun goes down'.

The PE department puts a string of gymnastic performances together with pupils from years 3-10, to music including 'I like' and 'California girls'. A year 7 pupil instructs the rest of the class; inspiring. The guitar band performs 'Rocking Robin' and 'Seven Nation Army'. Another guitar group play some classical music. A year 10 guitar group play their version of 'War is Over', a legendary song. The Community Choir sings '12 days of Red House'.

What a smashing end to a great show!!

Adam Ramsay – Press Pack

Lion Heart Challenge

This was held on Wednesday the 26th of January and was organised by Mrs Searle. Mrs Pamela Caudwell is the regional programme manager. The Lion Heart Challenge is about young people working on their finance, teamwork and marketing skills.

Mrs Caudwell introduced to the groups her team of business professionals. Students were working on their finance and business tasks, helping to develop their engineering skills. (Leadership, teamwork,

communication and problem solving skills) All of the teams were expected to co-operate.

The key targets for the tasks were:

Product or service	Innovation and potential
Marketing	Finance.

Product USP's, promotions mix, place and environmental impact.

Pricing policy, profit and loss accountant, break-even point and balance sheet.

Team skills - identification, task allocation, time management, delegation, problem solving and team work.

There were Key category awards to be competed for:

- best final package
- most affective team
- best final presentation
- best marketing plan
- the overall champion.

At the end, they groups had to present their business plan to everyone, and then the judges had to pick their winning team. The team with the best product and prophet won! The winning team members were:-

- Samantha Foster (9)
- Katie Smith (9)
- Kaitlyn Guthrie (9)
- Callum Burdis (9)
- John McDade (9)
- Natalie Davison (10)
- Shelley Ward (10)
- Lewis Robson (10)
- Ashleigh Doughty (10)

Danielle Warwick and Natasha Knowles – Press Pack



The Rights Respecting School's Award.

The Academy has started the process of trying to gain the Rights Respecting Schools Award. This award is sponsored in the UK by UNICEF and seeks to encourage schools to place at the heart of their vision the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

A number of schools in our area are seeking the award and we have already starting working towards it by holding student focus groups to find out what we currently do well in relation to the standards for the award and what we may have to develop further.

In the next few weeks, we will set up a Steering Group involving members of the academy community including students, staff and governors. We would also like to involve parents in the process so if any parent would like more information then please do contact Mr Cooney at the Academy to discuss how you could become involved.

If you would like to find out more about the award then visit the website:
<http://www.unicef.org.uk/Education/>.

There will be regular updates on our progress in forthcoming newsletters so please look out for them.

An update:

A great deal of work has been done in the last few months to help prepare our academy action plan for the Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA). The plan will be submitted by the end of term in July.

This process has involved students working to consider the meaning and importance of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which is the basis of the RRSA and further work was done at the Academy Student Council Conference in June.

A small steering group of students came together in April to work with Mr Cooney, Mr Filmer and Mrs Miller and this steering group will begin to meet again after the summer holidays to help put into practice the RRSA action plan.

Look out in the Autumn newsletters for further updates and news of activities and projects as we begin our journey to become a Rights Respecting School.

Mr Cooney



Year 7 Spelling Bee

On the 23rd March 2011 the year 7 Spelling Bee took place. The American style activity amused everyone as they watched the students spell.

The winner was Kester Field who said, "When I won I felt very excited and proud of myself. After all, I was in it to win it and it came to me as a massive shock. I was proud of the prizes and the points that I had earned for Earhart."

Kester won a £10 WH Smith Voucher, note pad and a stationery set. Kester also said he would like to do the Spelling Bee again.

Miss Nelson also had a few things to say, "I was incredibly impressed by the comradeship displayed by both the contestants and the audience. Callum Guthrie requested another Spelling Bee following the success and I have many ideas as how we can make the next one bigger and better. It was a pleasure to be involved."

Lewis Lister – Academy Press Pack

Red House Academy joins the BBC News School Report March 24 2011



For the very first time, this year we took part in the BBC News School Report on March 24th. The whole point of the day was to get pupils in Key Stage 3 to

be interested in news and to learn how to produce interesting news items.

It was a busy and pressured day as we had to be sure that the work we produced was ready to go on line by 2.00pm – we made it with 15 minutes to spare! The whole team worked well, creating Academy, local and national and international news reports. Some stories, particularly about the earthquake in Japan, were changing as the day progressed and so had to be regularly updated.

One smashing result of the day was that we now have more students interested in joining the Press Pack to help us produce our newsletter. Look for their work in future editions.

Many congratulations to those in the Press Pack who took part and many thanks to Miss Nelson for her support.

Mrs Moir

School Report – from the Press Pack viewpoint

Taking part in School Report is really good because you interview lots of different people and do things about news. I joined our Academy's Press Pack after Christmas because I thought it was a good thing to do and take part in. There are 10 people in our Press Pack; we all enjoy it. We have interviewed students at our 6th Form College, we took pictures and it was really good. Then we interviewed a Professor Fidler at our university and asked him questions.

What some of our staff think of School Report

Mrs Rodgers said that she thinks that the school report is a unique opportunity. With dramatic things happening in the news, it really helps us with what we are doing. She thinks that it is really good for the school and she thinks that it is really professional especially with 1000's of other schools taking part. People know more things about what's going on in the news and the Press Pack now than they did before.

Dr Quincey said it is fantastic and we are getting lots of positive reports. It's very important for people to know the news and things that are going on around school. She is really proud of all of us. She thinks that it is really good for the school and she said that it is a great opportunity for our students.

The Press Pack

Mr J. O'Brien -

Our First 'In House' Apprenticeship

Mr O'Brien achieved a NVQ level 2 in Business and Administration which enabled him to become a member of Red House Academy office staff. He completed his apprenticeship with the Academy and is here for at least another year as it took one year to complete his course.

He said that whilst working in the school he was extremely happy as, "All the staff have been very supportive and have been great to work with."

He also felt that they had helped him along the way.

He added that, "It was an amazing experience and a great challenge."

Thomas Spence – Press Pack

More praise for our pupils

As part of their plan to publicise 'Maison Rouge', on Wednesday 11th May, our students visited the local community, distributing promotional leaflets and talking to neighbours. Two ladies took the time to ring the Academy to compliment our students on how well they presented themselves and told the Academy that we should be very proud of them. We are and well done the students of the Hair and Beauty course!

Attendance

Attendance overall this year has been extremely good and the Key Stage 3 attendance has been exceptionally good. We are sure that this will continue and the Attendance Team within the Academy will continue to work with students and parents to reduce the number of absences in the Academy. This year we have had a record number of students who have received 100% attendance rewards and have received vouchers and or taken part in activities out of school. The parents of Joseph Liddle of Key Stage 4 and Dalton Gill of Key Stage 3 also received vouchers to the value of £150.00 after being drawn from the list of students who had 100% attendance for the spring term.

We do have a handful of students whose attendance, unfortunately, is below that which the Academy expects. In these circumstances we have had no option but to work with the Enforcement Team at the Local Authority. This has resulted in 3 parents being taken through the court system resulting in fines and parenting orders. We do not take this action lightly and it is only after all other avenues have been exhausted. However, it remains

the legal responsibility of all parents to ensure that your children attend school and we will enforce this through the courts if necessary. If you are worried about your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Smith, Mr Rutter or Mr Hodgson, who will be glad to help if at all possible.

The Attendance Team



The Bold Balladiers come to Red House Academy.

On May 27th Y8 enjoyed a performance of World War Two songs and speeches by a group called the Bold Balladiers. The performance featured songs such as "Run Rabbit Run" and "Lily Marlene", and Churchill's "We will fight them on the beaches" speech. Some enthusiastic flag-waving recreated the euphoria of VE Day in 1945.



Maths Games

Sunderland University students wanted to come to Red House Academy to work with some KS3 students in maths. They were invited in by Miss Heslop, met our students and were very impressed with their enthusiasm. Ideas for maths games were discussed in teams, planned for and created. These games were to help develop understanding in different maths areas. Students from Hylton Red House Primary School came to try out the games and they gave us feedback telling us that they had lots of fun. Miss Heslop is very proud of everyone who took part in this project. They proved to be excellent representatives of Red House Academy and created the start of what could be a growing partnership.



Buddy Reading Project

A select group of Year 7 students took part in a Buddy Reading project this term. The students were matched up with Sunderland University Education Undergraduates to enjoy a weekly one-to-one reading session. The aim of the project was to see how much improvement this kind of intervention would make on boosting reading ages. The project was a great success, with both students and volunteers enjoying the chance to share a good book, whilst discussing effective reading techniques and strategies for developing understanding.

Testing after the project showed that 75% of students had higher reading ages than at the start, with two students improving by a massive 24 months!

All of the buddy volunteers commented on how pleasant, enthusiastic and hard-working the Academy students were, with one saying that what she got most out of the project was "Watching the students grow quickly into readers who enjoy reading! The students were extremely responsive

and welcomed, understood and implemented the feedback given. This shone in their reading which made them brilliant reading buddies! Knowing that one person can clearly make such a difference in the skills of one student is a great feeling and is a great encouragement to keep improving professionally.”



Cooking Up a Storm

A group of Year 9 Hospitality and Catering and Manufacturing students were given a demonstration by Expo Chef, Kat Dearden, at the end of June. The students watched Kat prepare and cook four delicious, healthy dishes, using a range of exciting ingredients. The aim of the session was to encourage the students to get experimenting in the kitchen and develop their skills. All of the dishes were easy to prepare and cheap to make. The students were then invited to a taste testing session where they were asked to comment on the dishes and suggest ways to adapt them. A question and answer session followed where the students discussed healthy eating, how our taste buds develop as we get older and just how hot the hottest chillies really are!

Ms McNab



The Academy and the Community

Blossom Day, or Community Day was an important day for the Academy, to make sure that everyone knows how well the Academy is linked with our local community

Community Day 10th March 2011

Period 1 (RHAY Centre)

During period 1 the Year 7s came into the Youth Centre and made some key rings. The pupils looked very interested in this project and loved sharing ideas with their friends. The project was run by an organization called KRL who had put so much effort into it.

SAFC Foundation

In the Sports Hall two coaches named Giles and Aaron set up a speed cage and a target practice wall for year 8 students doing PE. The Speed Cage was an inflatable wall which could sense how fast you could kick a ball and the target practice was basically like a penalty shootout. Year 8 students really enjoyed this and hope it will come again.

Circus

During Period 3 we watched the Circus with the Year 7s and Year 3s from Southwick Primary .The Circus had some very funny acts from original circuses. They put a smile on everybody's face as all enjoyed the humour and laughter.

Birds Of Prey Flying Display

Students watched as Mr Thirlwell and his friend from the Kielder Birds of Prey Centre flew several birds such as falcons and hawks around DinerMight. Unfortunately the flying display could not be done outside as the weather was dull and very windy which could have upset some of the birds.

The Academy Press Pack



What the Community Police are all about.

We interviewed the community support officers Lisa Watson and Dave Corner who patrol our neighbourhood to make sure that our community is behaving well.

David and Lisa start their day in the team room getting their uniform ready and making sure they have everything they need, Then they go down to the briefing room where they are told which area they will be patrolling and what's going on around the area, so they can supervise groups of people or any problems around the area.

Lisa and Dave patrol round the areas Witherwack and Red House. They have 9 to 10 hour shifts and they get a 45 minute break at dinner time. If Lisa and Dave see you drinking on the street they have the power to take the drink from you and they can also take your name and send you home. If they see anything that is against the law or what could hurt you they can definitely do something about it.

Caitlin Carter and Bobbie Donkin – Press Pack

Fundraising

Just to say a great big thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising events, either by selling raffle tickets, festive friends, sweets, donating prizes, cooking and just being so generous with your support. We raised the following in the month of December alone:

Macmillan Cancer Research £75.00

Breast Cancer £100.00

St Benedict's Hospice £100.00

Sunderland Young Homeless £460.00

Children in Need £65.00



Come on down to the ATS!

Why don't you come on down and have an experience of a life time and join in the fun at Red House Detachment where you could end up having the greatest knowledge of things you've never expected. Come down on a Monday and Thursday and meet the team. The night starts at half 6.30 until 8.45, so have a think and join in the fun.

Out and About – Pupils and Staff Busy Away from the Academy

E-Factor Enterprise Challenge: Stage 1 - Thursday 7th October 2010

A team of ten, Year 8 'Gifted and Talented' students attended Stage 1 of the E-factor Enterprise Challenge at Thornhill School. The challenge is a four-stage competition, giving students from across Sunderland the opportunity to meet and work with some of the most successful Entrepreneurs from Sunderland City and neighbouring areas. The challenge gives students the opportunity to create a business of their own and to take risks within a competitive, safe environment, with the potential to win prizes for the best business behaviours. The competition will culminate in an event at a large local venue. Stage 1 is an Enterprise Day, Stage 2 is a series of focused workshops, Stage 3 involves running an enterprise and Stage 4 is a presentation of the life story and success of the enterprise.

The purpose of the event is:

- To increase enterprise understanding and capability.
- Raise awareness of different departments within a business.
- To develop enterprise skills of decision making, planning, organising, communication, teamwork, working to deadlines, numeracy and risk taking.
- To identify some of these skills through participative exercises based on the key enterprise elements of planning, sales and marketing, production and profit making.

The day was extremely successful and enjoyed by all the students.

'Energise Your Future' Event

At the end of September, 40 Year 11 Engineering and Manufacturing students attended the 'Energise Your Future' event, held at the Royal Marines Commando Centre, at Newcastle Quayside.

Energise Your Future was a unique interactive careers and lifestyle event that showcased the depth and breadth of career opportunities the oil, gas and energy sector has to offer. It was appealing to students not only for the career advice they received, but also because the students learned about many different aspects of the Engineering sector.

The morning was enjoyed by both students and staff.

Art

Year 10 Art GCSE students enjoyed two educational visits this half term.

On Thursday 7th October 2010, nine students visited Sunderland Winter Gardens as part of their Art GCSE.

On Thursday 14th October Year 10 Art students visited the National Glass Centre to take part in a 'Sand Casting' workshop. After designing their own 'sand casts' they observed molten glass being poured into them. The students were shown the processes involved with glass blowing too. It was an enlightening and enjoyable experience for all.



D&T

A group of Year 9 Manufacturing students recently visited Gestamp UK, a local company that supplies car parts to Nissan, Jaguar and General Motors. Equipped with goggles, earplugs and high visibility jackets, the students were given a guided tour of the factory to see how various car parts are made. They were able to work on the production line themselves, making clutches and door parts. The students were particularly interested to see how the company uses state of the art robotics in some of the processes. The use of computers allows intelligent automation which means that workers can detect poor quality products and ensure that they do not move on to the next stage in the

manufacturing process. The group were really surprised to hear that at Nissan, a new car is made every 3 seconds!

English

Fourteen of our Year 10 pupils had an amazing opportunity to work with professional actors, directors and staging technicians through the Academy's involvement with the Shakespeare School Festival, in which they rehearsed and perfected their own spin on an abridged version of Shakespeare's Hamlet. After studying the play during Year 9, they were given the chance to take that learning to the next level and appreciate Shakespeare in its intended form, a script designed for the stage.

Students and staff gave their free time including weekends to rehearse and perfect before performing at The Custom's House Theatre in South Shields on Monday 11th October to a full and encouraging audience. Although it was a very daunting prospect for them to step onto a professional stage and deliver Shakespearean speeches from memory, they did not suffer stage fright and were a credit to the Academy. Their hard work and dedication to learning their lines and the run of the show was obvious through their energy and commitment. It takes an admirable amount of courage to go onstage without scripts but this was happily and actively done by our wonderful thespians.

Lucci Muldown worked to make Hamlet such an interesting character, played with so much attitude and confidence. It really helped to build interesting dynamics with the other characters - particularly Ophelia, played by Sarah Hepton. There was a very modern sensibility to that relationship. Callum Sullivan proved a hit as the cruel and devious King Claudius and worked well to develop a convincing on stage relationship with his queen Gertrude, played by the impressive and convincing Natalie Davison. The tension really built through the play and the sound and lighting design - the flashes of light, the off-stage sound effects and the change of costumes, created a great look. There were lots of promising actors in the cast and I hope they got something positive out of the workshop and the performance day!

Great thanks to Miss Mamoodshahi for her devotion to the smooth running of the show and also to her glamorous assistant Michael Taylor, who proved a great encouragement to the troupes. Thanks also, to the English department for their support on the

night and to Miss Tindall for providing the musical instruments for the show. Lastly, my extended gratitude to those teachers who suffered in losing these stars from their lessons during rehearsals.

Miss Nelson

PE

Four Red House Academy Year 8 boys took part in Sunderland Boys' trials. Congratulations to Matthew Spence and Sean King who were selected for the squad. Unfortunately Callum Waddle and Micheal Hodgson missed out.

The Year 9 football team was well beaten but not outclassed by a strong St. Aidan's team. In soggy conditions Aidan's ran up a 4-0 half time lead before Matthew Spence scored our consolation. Aidan's scored 3 more, although Ryan Fowler and Anthony Wilson made brilliant saves. Unfortunately Anthony wasn't the goalkeeper so his save resulted in a penalty. Kieron Brown worked tirelessly up front and Kaylum McMahan was a rock in defence. Mr. Newman's tactical genius couldn't work any magic this time but in the post-match interview he said, "I was proud of our team, they never gave up. We've just to keep on working for that first win". And then.....

The Year 9 football team won 4-2 against Sandhill View. Alex Wate scored a hat-trick (although Kieron Archbold might try to claim one of them). Kieron Brown scored our other goal. Kaylum McMahan was again a rock in defence and Dalton Gill also played well.

Congratulations to Meg Lawson, Year 10, who has been selected for the Durham County U16 Girls' Football Squad. Well done also to Lucy McKellar, who joined Meg in braving the challenging weather conditions at the trial. However, despite great effort on Lucy's part, she unfortunately was not successful on this occasion. Both girls displayed full commitment and were great role models in representing Red House Academy

The Year 10 team was defeated 10-0 by Monkwearmouth. However, we were short of players and the majority of those that played kept their heads up, with a few notable exceptions. Kye Atkinson was in goal and was the man of the match for our team - we probably would have lost by 20 had he not played so well. He thinks he played badly but he really had no chance!

Various equipment has been purchased to entertain the students during break and lunchtimes. Games and activities have also been

marked on the yard, thanks to Miss Reynolds. Students are responsible for monitoring the equipment and organising games.

Academy Sport

There has been much to shout about regarding sport within Red House Academy over the past few months.

Dillon Morse Yr11 has recently signed a two year contract with Carlisle United. We wish him every success over the next two years and hopefully we shall see him on the professional football arena in the near future. All of the above students will be placed into the Red House Academy Hall of Fame for sport.

The Academy has also continued to run several football teams from the year groups and there have been some mixed results of late as the season draws to a close. The pupils involved, however, always represent the Academy in a good light and are proud to wear the shirt. Hopefully next year we will be able to develop the teams we have so that we have a chance of winning some silverware either in the leagues or cups that we compete in.

BTEC Sport. The Yr 11 group are nearing the end of their two year course and they can be very proud of the work they have produced over recent weeks. This ensures that they will be leaving the Academy with the equivalent of 4 GCSEs and is an excellent advert for sport.

The Yr10 BTEC group recently participated in a sports induction day at Gateshead College. They participated in a number of sports throughout the afternoon and were given a tour of all the world class facilities they have. This was an extremely valuable day as they were shown the various options sport can give as a career not just that of a player.

Mr Bains

Sporting Heroes

On the 15th March 2011 three students from Red House Academy, Kieran Scott, Lucy McKellar and Sarah Hepton travelled to Malta, a small island in the Mediterranean, to compete in an International Karate Competition. The total number of people that took part was 408 from 15 different countries. Kieran Scott and Lucy McKellar were both in different groups for this competition. Kieran Scott was in the 14 – 15 male category and Lucy McKellar was in the 14 – 15 female category.

At the end of this Karate Competition the results were revealed. Kieran Scott came 1st and Lucy McKellar came 2nd. This means that Kieran Scott is now a World Champion. Sarah Hepton also represented her country with pride.

All feel very proud about their success and about representing their country. They have made this Academy so very proud. Their martial arts skills proved that they are strong and mighty and so very well motivated. Well done!

The Academy Press Pack

Health and Social Care

Health and Social Care Group Interaction at Highcliffe Residential Care Home

A new Community Partnership is developing between Red House Academy staff and BTEC Health and Social Care students with the Manager Mrs L Langton, staff and residents at Highcliffe Residential Care Home at Witherwack.

Health and Social Care students are gaining valuable vocational learning experiences in a social care setting.

The Academy's Trip to Flamingo Land -Our Day Out

On Wednesday 27th October 2010, during half term, 60 selected students from year groups 8-11 were given the chance to go to Flamingo Land. This chance was offered to these particular students due to their hard work and excellent behaviour in and around The Academy.

When it was decided that there would be an end of term trip, the Academy's council got together and decided upon the criteria which had to be met to achieve the opportunity to attend the trip. The following ideals were agreed:

- 95% and above attendance
- No more than 2 late arrivals to The Academy
- No more than 2 call outs during their lessons.
- No internal/external exclusions
- Not to be on a departmental or behaviour report.

Those students who met the criteria enjoyed an amazing day at Flamingo Land, despite a few dodgy tummies on the journey there and back. Those staff lucky enough to attend, all commented on the excellent behaviour of the students and how they were wonderful ambassadors for The Academy.

A brilliant day had by all!

Miss Nelson

Coaching for Success

Red House Academy pupils celebrate another step forward

Red House Academy has a very clear picture of its role and mission. It is to create a learning culture amongst its students that encourages high aspiration and ambition and a teaching environment that enables them to make the most of their academic potential, setting them on the road towards achieving a bright future.

As part of achieving this aim a number of Year 9 students chose to take part in a specially designed 'Coaching for Success' programme in which they benefitted from additional training, the purpose of which was to get them to fully appreciate the importance of academic achievement to their longer-term futures and the need in the shorter-term to make the most of their potential and the teaching on offer to them at school. As part of the programme they also received the support of a dedicated performance coach to help them put into practice what they had learnt in the training and to really set themselves up for entry into Year 10 and the start of working towards their GCSEs.

On October 11th the pupils, their trainers and performance coaches came together at the Academy to finally complete the programme, share their experiences and relate what the programme has meant for them. They were joined at this event by their family members and the Academy staff, not simply to celebrate the end of the programme but more significantly, the beginning of a reinvigorated interest in learning.

Trip to 'No Limits Theatre'

On Tuesday 16th of November Miss Donald and Miss Jaitay took a group of Year 7 and 8 students to see 'Round the World in 80 Minutes'. The group got to sit very close to the front in the small venue. Most of the students really enjoyed the show. The play used a lot of actions and music to help the audience understand the story.

The play started with a funeral. It went on to tell about the dead man's life and his many adventures around the world. The man and his friend travelled to France by boat, where they took a trip on a bicycle. They also took a train to Italy and Russia. There was a ship wreck and they ended up on a desert island before continuing on to Egypt. They

ended their adventure in South America where the man fell off the mountain and died. The play ended with all the characters playing instruments as we left the building.

'No Limits Theatre Company' is sponsored by 'The Prince's Foundation for Children and the Arts' to form partnerships with primary and secondary schools in their local area. 'No Limits' will be working with the students throughout the year. They will be going to see another play in January and take part in four workshops with theatre professionals. The workshops will help to build students' confidence and cooperation skills and give them a taste of participation in theatrical activities.

Miss Donald

The Suffragettes

The suffragettes lived again on the main street at Beamish Museum in October. A group of Y9 students dressed in period costume and marched along the street chanting slogans such as "no vote no tax!" So when it's election time, don't forget, girls- the suffragettes fought for your rights.

Mr Newman



Music Students Meet Industry Professionals

BTEC Music students are learning about the Music Industry in order to create magazine articles and a radio programme about their experiences.

A programme of events and speakers has been arranged so that they can meet a variety of professionals in the music industry to help them with their work.

Students have already been on a visit to Sun FM, and have interviewed representatives from the

Musicians' Union, Sunderland Music Service and BBC Radio 3 as part of their work. They will also be undertaking a Sound Engineer Workshop at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle and will be working with a performer/composer of electronic music to gain a cross-section of information about the industry.

The students will put all of their information together in a radio programme in order to tell other people about the exciting and interesting lives of music industry professionals!

Miss Tindall

ICT - Year 10 Computing Day

Ten Year 10 students attended the School of Computing, Engineering and Information Sciences Year 10 Computing Day at Northumbria University on 8th December 2010. The young people were introduced to programmes including Computer Science, Computer Forensics, Ethical Hacking, Computer Animation and Web Design and Development. After lunch they were given a tour of the School's facilities and the University. The students had an excellent day and some have expressed an interest in pursuing a career in computers as a result of the visit.

ICT/Business – Year 8 Community Leaders Project
In December 2010, 25 Year 8 students involved in the Community Leaders Project attended an Enterprise Day at the Bethany Centre, Houghton Le Spring. The students were tasked with designing and marketing a product for which they were judged. Unfortunately our students were not successful on this occasion however they will have many more opportunities to demonstrate their entrepreneur skills over the coming year, when they will participate in various activities and events. The purpose of the project is to fund raise for a charity of their choice. The students unanimously agreed to support Grace House, which is planned for Southwick, and have shown enthusiasm and commitment since becoming involved. Well done!

Mrs Mould

The Presentation Ceremony

On Tuesday the 14th December our congratulatory ceremony took place at Sunderland University, in the Tom Cowie Lecture Theatre, to honour many students, both past and present, for their examination achievements, their good behaviour and their hard work.

They were brought out in groups to be

congratulated by our guests, the Sunderland football star, Nedum Onuoha and our lead sponsor, Mr Paul Callaghan.



The first awards were certificates and prizes for the year 11 students who left us in the summer. The next awards were very special ones. They included the Michael Tench Award for Leadership which went to David Crone. A further award was the Principal's Award which went to James Redford. The final award was the Robbie Robertson Award for contributing to the academy ethos and values. This award went to Andrew Southam.

This really was a great evening and it was good that so many parents and students could attend.

When will you get an award?

Matthew Potts –Press Pack

The Boxing Day Dip

The temperature was pushing -3 when the Red House 7 emerged from the Seaburn Centre, along with 1,000 other hardy souls, to take the plunge in the North Sea on Boxing Day.

Katie Braid, Jade Tansey, Steph Daley and Mr Newman had turned blue with cold- or was that part of their Smurf fancy dress? Dillon Lloyd and Michael Taylor sported morph suits while Miss Nelson carried off a Christmassy theme.

Everyone survived the ordeal and we are hoping to raise upwards of £200, to be split between Burma Education Partnership (supporting education among refugees from Burma) and Cancer Research UK.

Mr Newman

Sadly there are no photos to accompany this article – the Smurfs claim they were too busy trying to keep warm!

Red House meets St Peters.

On the 2nd February 2011 Red House Academy Press Pack visited St Peter's Sixth form College to work with the media studies class and their teacher Helen Wilson. We were asked to pair up with some of the students from the Sixth form College as part of a task that we would be doing. Once we were paired up we were asked to interview our partner from the college. My partner was Sophie who had recently gone to Monkwearmouth Comprehensive before joining St Peter's.

I asked Sophie if it was easy making new friends and fitting in at college. She replied, "You wouldn't think it but it is. I mean you're all in the same position really, no one really knows what anyone else is like, what their personality is like or what interests they had so really all you can do was be friendly." She told me that the worst part of leaving school is all the lessons, friends and members of staff that you get along with, leaving them behind. I asked her what made her come into media. She told me, "I really wanted to go into journalism but I didn't have the grades, and then someone suggested I take media studies as it would help get me in."

After the interviews were over all the groups were assigned a task. The task was to create a magazine cover for an article on college life. We were given a camera and 20 minutes to walk around the college district and get some photos taken for our front cover.



Finally, after we had taken the pictures we went back to the media room to create our covers. We had to use the software Photoshop to get the pictures and text on the way we wanted. Although we have used Photoshop before the college students showed us a few more tricks on the software which helps with the way it was presented. Helen then told us that if we would like that we may

do some more work with them and some others and she hopes we enjoyed our time in the college, but before we go we had to all get a big group photo. Then it was back to Red House.

Thomas Spence – Press Pack

Mathstastic.

On Thursday the 10th of February, students from years 7 and 8 went to the 'Centre for Life' in Newcastle to do a maths project called Mathstastic. First of all we had to sit in a big dome and answer some maths questions. There were four rounds. In the first round one person from each team had to go up and answer questions, only they could answer them. The second round was the same, but on the third round both teams had to answer questions but as a team not one person. Then the fourth round only one person had to go up and answer the final question. Team one won.

After that we were split into another set of groups, year 7 and year 8. First, we had to go round and answer puzzles, like physical puzzles and mental puzzles. After that we went on a short trail around the 'Centre for Life', trying to find the answers to our questions.

Finally we came home.

Natasha Knowles and Adam Ramsay – Press Pack



The City of Sunderland sings USA final

On Sunday the 13th March, secondary schools and primary schools from all over Sunderland were at the Sunderland Empire to compete. The dressing rooms were where you got changed, even though they were very small. In the rooms you had mirrors to put your make-up on and get your hair done before the show started.

When it got to the time to sing, the stage was dark and there were red and blue lights shining all over it.

Whilst getting ready to go on stage and whilst we started to perform, we had a wide range of mixed emotions; we were excited, nervous, worried and shy; we felt amazed by it.



Our school selected two representatives, who had to go up on the stage along with the representatives from the other schools and if your school won the two representatives from that school had to go and collect the trophy and a £300 cheque. Unfortunately our school didn't win but it's the taking part that counts! There were two categories, primary winners and the secondary winners. East Herrington Primary School won for the primary schools and St Robert's Sixth Form won for the secondary schools. We come second, but every school wins just by getting to the final. We performed in front of 2000 people or more and also the Mayor and the Mayoress were there watching us.

It was an amazing experience.

Caitlin Carter -Choir and Press Pack member

And just to let you know how others see us, Dr Quincey received a smashing letter from Christopher Watson. Part of his message was:-
"It has been my pleasure to help Miss Tindall and the music department over the past few weeks, and I am pleased the event at the Sunderland Empire went so well!"

As a freelance musician I have worked in several schools, colleges and universities and must say the atmosphere at Red House Academy has been great – few of the schools I work with have such a friendly atmosphere, and I found the students in the music department enthusiastic and a pleasure to work with."

Shakespeare Vs Alex Pettyfer!

On Thursday 17th March, the whole of year 9 enjoyed the chance to benefit from a cinema trip to Cineworld, Boldon, to see 'I Am Number Four.'

The trip was designed as part of the Shakespeare unit which they are currently studying. The aim of the trip was for the pupils to identify with Shakespeare's main ideas and themes, which are still popular in today's modern media.

It's not often that a whole year group is taken on a visit together; however the behaviour of the pupils was excellent. Everyone enjoyed their day and returned to school full of popcorn and smiles.

Following on from the visit, they have worked on comparing the film with Shakespeare's, 'As You Like It' and 'Romeo and Juliet.'

Megan Richardson, year 9, said that she found the educational visit very beneficial as she found the plays more accessible this way.

"I have often found Shakespeare difficult, but by comparing the themes with modern films, has helped me to understand the many links."

Cineworld sent me an email after the trip saying that,

"It was a pleasure to accommodate Red House Academy, and the pupils were very polite and respectful."

After the success, I look forward to organising more educational trips.

Miss Nelson

Seven Stories Visit

On 6th April, a group of Year 7 students visited 'Seven Stories.' This is a literacy based gallery that celebrates the world of children's books. We took part in a scriptwriting workshop where we had to continue a story as well as creating some characters of our own. We also learned more about the children's author and poet, Michael Rosen. There was also a Puffin book exhibition - it included some books that we hadn't read since primary school; it brought back some great memories!

We also visited The Hancock Museum, which is also in Newcastle. We saw many interesting things including stuffed animals, fossils and dinosaur bones. The skeleton of the dinosaur reminded me of Rex from the film, "Night at the Museum."

By Demi Leigh Wate and Kieran Allan



Year 10 Geographers in the Lake District

On the 23rd May 2011 13 GCSE Geography pupils took part in a walk to Easedale Tarn in the Lake District. Luckily the torrential rain stopped just as pupils began the upland walk through the glaciated environment. Pupils were challenged throughout the walk not only by the tutor from the Blencathra Fields Studies Centre but also the occasional severe gale force winds. By the end of the walk all pupils were happy but exhausted. A special thank you to Mr Kenny who accompanied the geography trip and drove us safely through at times treacherous weather.

Miss Humphries



Murder Most Foul.

Murder most foul was committed at Beamish in May, but fortunately a group of Y8 sleuths was on hand to investigate and identify the perpetrator. A body was found in the waiting room at the railway station, and our young detectives discovered that he had been carrying the payroll for some of the

local pits. He was killed as he was about to board a train by a young man with money problems. This visit was a reward for good homework completed in History in the Spring Term.

Mr Newman



Well done to everyone who performed at the Customs House

Red House Community Choir (Mrs Rodgers, Miss Nelson, Mrs Middlemiss, Mrs Lane, Mrs Smiles, Mr Miller, Mr Lane, Mr Davies, Mr Donald, Ms Huntley, Ms Smith, Ms Heslop, Ms Morton, Ms Golledge, Mrs Jackson, Miss Ridley, Mrs Knowles and Mrs Dreyer gave an excellent performance on Wednesday 1st June at the Customs House, South Shields and all were professional and competent performers. They liked us so much they've invited us to perform at another concert!

Red Tuesday (Brandon Smith, Thomas Spence, Kye Atkinson, Ciaran Howe-Hartley, Callum Sullivan) performed as part of the band night on Friday and matched up very well to all the university performers. The University staff commented that they were one of the best bands, were well organised and knew exactly what they were doing.

It is a credit to everyone that they gave up their half term to perform, meanwhile contributing to the Sunderland University-Red House Academy partnership, as well as raising the profile of the Academy and our Music Department.

Sincere thanks to all, and here's to more performances in and out of school.

Miss Tindall

Hadrian's Wall

14 Y7 students trod in the footsteps of the Romans along a stretch of Hadrian's Wall recently. The day started with a film about the wall, featuring a bird of prey specially selected by our own Mr. Thirlwell. The students made good time on the walk along the wall, so the centurions in command didn't need to use their vine-rods for discipline purposes. The picture shows the unit at the end of the march.

Mr Newman



Durham Cathedral

On the afternoon of Tuesday 10th May a group of approximately 70 year 8 pupils visited Durham Cathedral as part of their R.E. module on why places are important to religious people. On arrival at the cathedral, the pupils were welcomed by the guides and after being split into three groups were shown around the cathedral.

Pupils were shown the vast array of stained glass in the cathedral including the Rose Window and the most recent addition, the Daily Bread window which shows Jesus and his disciples at the last supper from above. The window was paid for by Marks and Spencer to celebrate their anniversary. Pupils were shown the tombs of St Bede and St Cuthbert - whose remains the cathedral was built to house. Of particular interest to the students was the cathedral clock, which was left untouched by the Scots, possibly due to the thistle on the top of it. Pupils were interested to learn that the clock only has 48 minutes on the face.

It is hoped that a repeat visit will be made to the cathedral next year.

Mr Filmer

Internationalism

Romanian Visitors

In September, Red House Academy welcomed a group of thirteen students and young adults from Romania. They were visiting the North East of England as part of a trip organised by Rob Bianchi from the ODM charity. As part of the week they had visited a variety of schools and churches in the area including Pelton Roseberry School in Chester-le-Street and West Pelton Methodist Church. Their visit to the Academy was the culmination of their school's visits. During their visit they spent an hour working with the year 10 GCSE R.E. group and then each of the students worked with the Key Stage 3 tutor groups. For the hour they did a presentation about Romania and played games with the pupils to help them understand more about their country. As the Romanian students came from a Christian church, they also shared the importance of their faith with our students.

Chinese Visitors

The link with the school in Harbin was set up through Sunderland LA who was keen to develop links with China. In 2009 Dr Quincey visited Harbin and Middle School 113. During this visit there were opportunities to observe different teaching methods and discuss further partnerships between the two schools.

In November 2010 a delegation from Harbin including Mr Li Yuijun from the Harbin Education Bureau visited Red House Academy. They were greeted by pupils and staff and took part in a tour of the school and musical performances by pupils. The exchange will hopefully lead to further agreements between the schools. Longer term the school hope to develop this link further and integrate the teaching of Mandarin into the curriculum, hopefully with teachers funded from China, leading to further student and staff exchanges.

Miss Humphries



Amnesty International's Greetings Card Campaign

The school took part in Amnesty International's Greetings Card Campaign before Christmas. Students were invited to send cards to victims of human rights abuses. The four cases in this year's campaign came from El Salvador, Iraq, China and Azerbaijan.

£5 vouchers were awarded for the best cards to Adam Ramsey, Jack Fairley and Mica Anderson. To show that these cards have an impact, one of last year's cases was released from prison in 2010: he'd been framed for murder because of his campaigning work in Mexico.

Mr Newman

Chinese New Year

We interviewed Miss Humphries about the Chinese New Year week she organised in school. Our school is linked with Harbin Middle School 113. During the week beginning the 31st January we had Chinese style lessons and also a Chinese style dinner. The school prefects sold fortune cookies and Chinese lucky sweets. Chinese music was played throughout the day.

It was to celebrate the year of the rabbit. The enrichment science club released Chinese lanterns and the cooking club made a Chinese stir-fry. A Chinese student ambassador came into school to teach 60 year 7 children how to speak Mandarin. The 30 pupils also sent letters to Harbin Middle School 113.

Danielle Warwick and Natasha Knowles – Press Pack

Fair-trade fortnight, 2011

Red House Academy went totally Fair Trade for two weeks (28th February – 13th March). Pupils worked hard in geography lessons learning about the campaign surrounding cotton farming and the importance of buying fair trade products. Pupils designed t-shirt bunting to show their support of this important issue, these were displayed around the Academy. Throughout the two weeks staff and pupils were encouraged to “show off your labels” by bringing in the wrappers from fair trade products.

As a small part of Fair Trade Fortnight, staff got their baking aprons on and created a range of cakes, flapjacks and sweets, using as many Fair Trade ingredients as they possibly could. The judging was undertaken by Dr Quincey and Mr Cooney and the final winners were

1st Miss Snowdon

2nd Mr Filmer

3rd Miss Donald



International Links

Pupils from 9-2 took part in a photo walk during a geography lesson. They are designing letters, photographs and video reports describing life both in Red House Academy and the local area to send to a school in Malaysia. This is the first time pupils have made links with this school; they are looking forward to receiving replies.

Miss Humphries

Year 9 visit to the Oriental Museum, Durham

Following a successful week celebrating Chinese New Year, some pupils were selected from the geography department to attend a Chinese Workshop at the Oriental Museum in Durham. Pupils were chosen based on recent homework researching the culture and geography of China.

Pupils had an amazing day, looking at the exhibitions, learning fascinating facts and even took part in acting out the story of the Chinese Zodiac. It was a brilliant day and a great way to reward the effort pupils had put into their homework.

Notre visite en France !

During February half term, the Academy took a group of year 8 and 9 pupils to France. We visited both Paris and the small, typically French village of Loches.

While in Paris we visited both the Eiffel Tower and Disneyland. Everyone had an exciting time and enjoyed buying souvenirs to remind them of the trip.

During our time in the picturesque town of Loches, we enjoyed a trip to Chateau Loches, which was constructed in the 9th century. The pupils really enjoyed finding out about the history of the castle and the town.

The pupils had the opportunity to enjoy both the French food and language and they really took part in understanding the culture.

The pupils' behaviour was impeccable and they truly were a credit to the Academy. Their behaviour ensured that everyone had an amazing time and everyone was able to make the most of the cultural experience.

Quotes from pupils:

“Paris has changed my life!” Gavin Addison

“It was mint!” Ryan Fowler and Francesca Marriner

“I learned how to make the perfect chocolat chaud!” Jen Robson

“It was a once in a lifetime opportunity for me and I was so grateful to be invited!” Alice O'Brien Lawson

“It was an amazing opportunity which I'll never ever forget!” Caitlin McDowell

“It was very interesting to spend some time in the world famous, city of love!” Lewis Dawson

“Disneyland was very exciting and fun! I loved it!”

Meg Richardson

Roop Singh - The Storyteller with a Difference

On 26th and 27th May, we welcomed Roop and Surinder Singh from Leeds to lead a Sikh experience with 120 year 7 pupils over the course of the two days.

Roop, who describes himself as a storyteller with a

difference, has been visiting schools since 1984 when he first went into his daughter's school to explain to pupils why Sikhs wear turbans. Such was his popularity that he had to give up his full time job as a research engineer and concentrate full time on his work in schools throughout the country. About his job, Roop said "Over the years I have become one of those who believes we learn best through experience and enjoyment and that's why all my workshops are designed to be light and entertaining yet educational."

Roop's two days at Red House each began by leading the key stage 3 (years 7-9) assemblies in which he told pupils about the importance of persevering to achieve their goals, even when at times, they might want to give up. After assembly the year 7 pupils gathered to hear the Roop Singh story in which he explained to pupils how, having been born in England, he was more English than Sir Cliff Richard, who was born in India.

Roop spoke about his childhood experience of bullying at school, simply because he wore the turban and how he pleaded with his mother to go to his school and explain to pupils about Sikh beliefs. However, because his mother spoke only basic English, she was unable to do so, but she said to him "One day Roop you can go into schools and tell them" which was not what he wanted to hear as an 8 year old with ambitions to become a fireman!

For almost two hours Roop entertained the pupils telling them stories about his life and teaching them about the Sikh religion, showing them how to put a turban on and explaining why he wears the Five Ks (the symbols of the Sikh religion). At the end of the session, Lee Dagg one of the year 7 pupils said "Roop's life story is amazing. I liked learning about the turban. He [Roop] was so funny"

For the remainder of the two days, pupils split themselves into three carousel groups, rotating around workshops led by Roop, Surinder and Candice Muckles who was a PGCE student at the Academy. Surinder's workshop was particularly popular with the pupils as she had brought with her a vast collection of saris and turbans for the pupils to try on.

Both staff and pupils at the Academy were impressed with Roop and Surinder's time. Mark Potts, one of the year 7s said "Roop made us happy about what his life was about. I particularly enjoyed my lesson because he was funny and helped us to understand how to complete the work easily."

It is hoped that Roop and Surinder will be able to

return next year to work with the year 7s who join the Academy in September 2011. The purpose of Roop's visit was to enable our pupils to realise that just because a person is not white does not make them somehow different and that prejudice and racism are unacceptable in today's society. Judging by the comments of pupils and staff, this visit was incredibly successful.

Mr Filmer

The Press Pack

What it's like to be in the Press Pack.

Being in the Press Pack is good. We work on the school news letter, collecting information about things going on in school. I've been in the Press Pack since November 2010.

I never really liked the media and the news until I joined the Press Pack; it has got me more involved in it.

Some of the things in the Press Pack can be quite challenging but its best you put the hard work in, in the end.

Since I've joined the Press Pack I've got better at my English work in school, and it's helped me with my vocabulary and my learning. It has also made me more aware of things going on around school.

It is a pleasure working for the Press Pack.

Natasha Knowles

Past Pupils

We are absolutely delighted to celebrate their success!

News of pupils from the recent (and not so recent) past and where they are now.

- Melissa Sirmond and Daniel Fulbrig (left Summer 2010) are both doing well at Newcastle College where they are studying A levels
- Michael Gibson studied 'A' levels at St Peter's Sixth form and is now studying Sociology with Education at the University of Sunderland
- Ryan Scott studied 'A' levels at St Peter's Sixth form and is now studying Business Management at the University of Sunderland
- Stacey Burn also studied 'A' levels at St Peter's Sixth form, achieving A,A,A and is now studying Childhood Studies at the University of Sunderland
- Andrew Hunt achieved A,A,A this summer at St Peter's Sixth form.
- Shauna Reay studied 'A' levels at St Peter's Sixth form and is now applying to study nursing.
- The following pupils all progressed to St Peter's

Sixth Form and have now moved on to university

- Ross Ballantine – Computing
- Carlos Caballero – Graphic Communication and Design
- Jamie Coates – Photography, Video and Digital Imaging
- Amy Dagg – Geography
- Liam Doughty – Exercise, Health and Fitness
- Sarah Harvey – Health and Social Care
- Stacey Jackson – Performing Arts
- Edward Morrison – Business Computing
- Charlotte Nash – LLB Law
- Kayley Percy – Health and Social Care
- Kurt Ramsey – Applied Music Practice
- Samantha Scrafton – Dance
- Faye Simpson – Business and Financial Management
- Anthony Smith - Computer Games Design
- Steffanie Williams – Business
- James Woolford – Graphic Communication and Design

What do you want to go on to study after you leave the Academy?

Start thinking and planning!



Our hairdressing salon, 'Maison Rouge', is where our students on the Hair and Beauty course do their training. The salon is also open to all members of the community so please see their flyer below and why not make an appointment?

Red House Academy's African Adventure!

As you know our Academy's main sponsor is Paul Callaghan of the Leighton Group. Paul is also involved with a school in Ghana and is in the process of setting up a link between this school and Red House Academy. He was very keen that this link be more than a series of pen-pals or emailed photographs and so he set up a fund to enable us to

take a dozen or so students out to Africa this year, with a second trip planned for next year.

The team of students will fly out to Ghana, stay in a local village and assist in the building of a primary school. What a fantastic opportunity for our young people!

As you can imagine the competition for places was extremely hard. We had 22 applicants for 12 places. Each candidate had to complete an application form, collect three references from staff and take part in an interview. To ensure the process was fair as well as rigorous, the interview panel members comprised two senior leaders, Miss Smith, our Finance Director and myself. Neither of us had written any references for any of the candidates. We were joined by Carol Smith, a member of the Academy Trust. Notes were taken during the interview process by Miss Mitchelson, representing Key Stage 3 and Mrs Taylor, from Key Stage 4. Once again, neither member of staff had provided candidates with references. The questions asked included; why the candidate wanted to go to Ghana, what their expectations of the trip were and what they thought made a good team player. They were also given a scenario – what would they do if they were homesick, feeling poorly, hot and tired and it was time to get up to go to work on the project. As a final 'decider' in case of a tie-break, they were given a map and asked to locate Ghana. The panel was very impressed by all the candidates and it was a very difficult decision to make. However, the final results were unanimous and it was a happy and sad task - in equal measure – to tell the lucky and not so lucky students the news.

Fundraising is the next job and we would like all the community to help with this. If you can make a donation please do so using the following link www.justgiving.com/redhousegoesmadforghana.



Or if you have any great ideas for fund raising, please let us know.

We look forward to seeing the photographs and will no doubt include a report in the Christmas edition of the newsletter.

The successful students for GHANA are:

Shelley Ward
Thomas Reed
Dillon Lloyd
Brady Jackson
Alice O'Brien-Lawson
Adam Baker
Natalie Davison
Callum Sullivan
Jade Tansey
Eleanor Potts
Corey Hopper
Megan Richardson

Mrs Preston

Mark Potts runs for Ghana

Mark Potts is the father of one of the students who is going to Ghana. He decided to run the Sunderland 10k Run and to raise money for the Ghana charity. He came into school to be interviewed by the Press Pack.

His hobby is running and he has run the Great North Run 4 times. He goes to a boot camp to get his fitness up. He has been running on and off since he was 20 years old. He started running because he wanted to get his fitness up, he also really enjoys it. We asked, why did you decide to do the run and his answer was that he wanted to do it to get his fitness up. He had been planning on doing the run for a while and then when he learned about the Ghana project, it seemed a good idea to be sponsored for Ghana.

The Press Pack

Dates for your diary

School closed Monday 5th September 2011

School re-opens Tuesday 6th September 2011

- 8.30 am Year 7 to report for school
- 10.45 am ALL other year groups to report for school



Many thanks to all the staff and students who have contributed to this newsletter and to Mr Cullen for his artistic skills in ensuring that how the newsletter looks, whether on paper or on the web site, is as professional as possible. Thanks also to Mrs Preston for double checking for spelling and punctuation errors.

We would love to hear from you, our readers, with ideas for other items we could include in future editions of the newsletter. Please contact me at school.

Thank you for your interest and for reading our newsletter. Have a wonderful summer.

Mrs Moir and the Press Pack

SEPTEMBER

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 Shaded areas are Academy holidays
 Bank holidays

Good attendance means...

...being in school at least 95% of the time (180 to 190 days)

175 days off school

All this time for shopping, holidays, appointments etc.

(0 days absence)
190 school days in each year

(10 days absence)
180 in school

(19 days absence)
171 in school

(29 days absence)
161 in school

(38 days absence)
152 in school

(47 days absence)
143 in school

100% attendance
Best chances of success

90% attendance
Poor attendance - less chance of success

80% attendance
Very poor attendance - serious impact on education and reduces life chances

75% attendance

365 days in a calendar year

Good time keeping means...

...making sure you are at school on time and ready to learn.

3 days lost

6.5 days lost

10 days lost

13 days lost

19 days lost

5 minutes late

10 minutes late

15 minutes late

20 minutes late

30 minutes late

Did you know? If you are 15 minutes late each day you will have missed two full weeks of school by the end of the Academy year?

Did you know? A two week holiday in term means that the highest attendance you can achieve is 94.7%



What's On



- Monday** 3.30 till 5.30 - Family Community Gardening
5.45 till 6.45 - Zumba Academy Dance Studio £2 per session
- Tuesday** 9.00 till 11.00 - Community Coffee RHAY Centre
9.30 till 10.30 - Active 'N' 'B' Fit
10.00 till 11.00 - Community Library
11.00 till 1.00 - Scrap Booking
5.45 till 6.45 - Zumba Academy Dance Studio £2 per session
- Wednesday** 9.30 till 11.30 - Jewellery Making
4pm till 6pm - Family Cooking
- Thursday** 5.45 till 6.45 - Zumba Academy Dance Studio £2 per session
- Friday** 9.00 till 10.30 - Free Weight Management and Exercise Class

All Activities to be held in the RHAY Centre.

There are a number of new activities planned for the coming term including the following:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Bollywood Dancing | Holistic Therapies |
| Card Making | Parent, Baby and Toddler Group |
| Scrapbook Memories | A great place to meet up for you and your children to socialise |
| Jewellery Making | Family Learning Numeracy and Literacy |
| Creative Arts | |
| Community Computers | |
| Community Choir | |
| Family Fabric Painting | |
| Parents Forum | |

*Thank You for your
help and support.
from the
Community Team.*

**For further information or to
book a place, please contact
Mrs Loraine Humble
(Community Manager)
on 0191 5615513 or
07805508997**

**Accredited
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Learning**





**RED HOUSE
ACADEMY**