



Review of the Year 2007/2008

Dear Parents

We are now coming towards the end of a long and successful year at Neale-Wade Community College. I would like to share with you just some of the exciting and important events and activities of that have taken place this year.

House news

We've had a very successful first year of our House system with many exciting competitions and events. The termly quiz has been very popular, Da Vinci won overall first place in the sports events and Wisden currently hold the Achievement Challenge Cup which is awarded to the House whose Key Stage 4 students are closest to their targets. All Houses have recently been holding Celebration Assemblies where academic achievement is rewarded along with good attendance and contributions to College life. As part of the Assemblies each House held an exciting Talent Contest, competition was fierce, the performances were brilliant and a good time was had by all. The winners will perform at the whole college assembly at the end of term. Each House has now appointed between 10 and 15 student leaders and in a new initiative we are in the process of appointing two House Leaders, one boy and one girl to take on more responsible roles.

Year 11 Prom

We had a very successful Prom 2008, led by Mr Page and Mrs Rutterford with a large number of Year 11 students having a really great time, looking amazing and celebrating their time in school and the friends they have made. Why not visit our website on www.neale-wade.cambs.sch.uk to have a look at the pictures.

Post 16

This year has seen the further development of our post-16 activities. We have raised thousands of pounds for local and national charities through fancy dress, sponsored events and cake stalls. Our student council has organised a variety of trips, social and sporting events for our students to get involved in. This culminated in our annual May Ball at Elm Hall which was, as always, a glamorous and wonderful event.

We are currently awaiting the results of the AS and A2 examinations and wishing our students well with their university courses and futures.

Creative Arts

A number of activities this year have involved students who study art, music and drama including a trip to Les Miserables, and a week trip to Spain at the end of term.

Many enjoyable music events have taken place during the year including; participation in the Peterborough Music Festival, the wonderful concert in memory of Paul Celler, the summer concert and Musician of the Year.

Students and staff in Drama worked very hard to give us a brilliant production of Bugsy which involved students in years 8 to 13. Recently "The Witches", performed by students in Year 7, was a great success and shows what real talent we have here for the future. Exam performances from students in years 11 and 13 were very impressive and gave students an opportunity to write their own work as well as perform that of others.

For students studying art this year there have been opportunities to get involved with outside organisations. A group of Year 8 students have joined with the Octavia Hill Birthplace Museum in Wisbech to use art to promote her work. Also Cambridge Biological Sciences have worked with us to produce a mural, and we have had trips to the Tate, photographic workshops and competitions.

Design Technology

The Faculty once again participated in the F1 in Schools Challenge with a new team competing in this year's competition and winning the most innovative thinking award. This resulted in another trophy being added to the ever growing number which signifies the clubs achievements. During the year the Greenpower club has been busy raising funds to enable them

to rebuild the car and hopefully compete in the competition this September.

English

A large number of students took the opportunity to purchase a variety of books through school. The after school writing club proved very popular and students produced some wonderful pieces of creative writing. The holiday revision sessions proved extremely successful with students from all key stages. The activities allowed groups to develop skills while having fun.

Humanities

Students in Humanities have been working hard, especially those in Year 11. We have had trips to the Battlefields in France (History), to the Lake District (for students studying Geography A Level), to Hunstanton and to a local wind farm. We have been very impressed that, on many of these trips, the students were complimented for their attitude, behaviour and manners.

ICT

With ICT we have introduced our new KS4 course - OCR Nationals in ICT. With Year 10s and 11s working very hard we have high expectations of the new course. We have also started the whole College blog - this gives students and everyone the opportunity to comment on up to date issues and express their opinions openly. Have you seen it yet? Do get involved.

Many students have continued to take advantage of after-school study time in ICT 1. This is part of our Specialist College status and means students are able to complete homework, coursework and keep up to date with their work. We have also been delighted to contribute and share Neale-Wade's work with the wider community. In January Neale-Wade students were given exclusive access to the BETT (British Education and Training Technology) show. They presented on the official Adobe stand and awed a packed crowd of technology experts. In addition to this, we were asked to showcase our work at the National Maths & Computing Specialist Conference, we put together and shared an ICT vision for BSF, we led the CambsMoodle conference, and produced collaborative work with the Netherlands Exchange students. Most significantly, we are delighted to continue innovative, cutting edge ICT solutions involving students at every level.

Languages

The Languages Faculty has been very lucky to benefit from the work of a German Assistant who has been part of the department during this year. She has taken small groups of students and helped them to improve their language skills and although she will be leaving us at the end of term we will be getting a French Assistant in September. Two of our Year 13 students have obtained bursaries from the March Education Foundation to help them to finance a trip to Berlin to assist them in their A Level studies.

Learning Support

The Learning Support Department now has an area which is open to their students to use at break and lunchtimes and they really enjoy it. A group of students have started rehearsing a dance production to take place next February.

Maths

Once again a number of our students in years 7, 8, 10 and 11 participated in the UK Maths Challenge and many achieved certificates in Bronze, Silver and Gold. Our first group of adult learners have completed their GCSE course and we wish them and all our students' success in the exam. Neale-Wade maths department hosted a maths conference for local schools and our work with our partner Primary Schools and Year 6 pupils is progressing well.

PE

Another successful sporting year at the college was celebrated at the sports presentation evening, with numerous awards presented to students. This was followed by a BBQ for all who attended. This presentation evening follows many extra curricular sports sessions and fixtures at district, county and national level. The year 7 girls football team became district, county, regional champions and also competed well at the national finals. The year 7 & 10 boys football teams also became district champions and the year 10s will be playing in the county final in September. The Year 10 rugby squad and Year 7 & 9 Netball squads also became district champions. Fifteen district athletic titles were won by various students at the district championships. Some of these then represented the district at the county championships.

The annual primary transition sports festival was again a massive success with approx 300 students from the feeder schools joining with some of the year 7's to experience a huge range of sports.

The department has launched its own sports academy. For more information and an application form, please go to the Presentation Evening blog on the college website.

Science

In science students have participated in a number of inter-school challenges which test their academic and creative skills. Others have taken part in the Science Club and have had lots of fun at weekly meetings. We have recently bought a telescope which will be of use in the club and also in the after school Astronomy club due to start in September. This may give some students the opportunity to study for a GCSE in Astronomy.

That Eco Thing

This year at Neale-Wade a group was set up to try to make students and teachers more aware of why we should be more environmentally friendly and respect the planet. That Eco Thing have set up a 80 x 10m fruit and vegetable plot and are growing fresh produce (new potatoes, beans, lettuce, courgettes and strawberries) that go to the canteen to cook and sell at lunchtimes. The group also ran a Valentines Day roses delivery service, put "lights out" reminders up near all the light switches, held a plant sale that raised over £80, and had a "scary scarecrow" contest and a "guess the weight of the spuds" competition. The group's final event of this year is to organise a petition to send to the Prime Minister asking him to plant more trees near motorways. That Eco Thing are also going to be featured in two national gardening magazines!

As you can see, we have had a very full and productive year, and we hope that next year will be just as successful.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Cox
Vice Principal
16 July 2008

