

NEWSLETTER

Digging for Victory!



Last Friday, eight of our Year 7s took a trip to the 'Hapton Big Dig' where they became archaeologists for the day!

The excavation, mainly carried out by local volunteers under the supervision of experienced archaeologists, is an ongoing project that aims to determine the exact location of the lost medieval village of Birtwistle which was cleared to make way for the Towneleys' deer park. In 1510, Sir John Towneley built Hapton Tower in the centre of his deer park and exposing the foundations of the tower has also become a priority in the excavation.

Our students were taught how to excavate without damaging any artefacts and were then set to work over three trenches, one of which stemmed from the larger Hapton Tower trench and eventually exposed some more of its foundations. All of the archaeologists on site remarked on how hard-working and bright our students were and we are proud that they are representing our school. Their diligent efforts paid off, with them making several finds, including pieces of medieval window glass and part of a clay pipe stem which was estimated to be four hundred years old! All of the students showed a good understanding of the material, from the physical excavation techniques to the history of the social and political factors that caused the building of the tower and the demolishing of the medieval village. They also learnt how to examine the landscape for evidence of previous settlements.

There were smiles all around and it seems that we may have some budding archaeologists



among our student body, with Georgia saying, “I enjoyed seeing and uncovering things that hadn’t been seen for 500 years”. “We had a great time and we laughed a lot,” said Chlöe, whose “good technique” was praised by the supervising archaeologists, “we learned a lot today and I would LOVE to go again!”



Success For Our Footballing Star

All of the staff and students at Shuttleworth are thrilled to announce that one of our very own Year 10 students has just signed a three year contract, complete with a two year scholarship, with Blackburn Rovers. It’s a dream come true for winger Brandon Lonsdale, who told us that “I’ve been a Blackburn fan since I was a kid; I started watching them when I was about 3, with my dad.”

Brandon had been playing for Accrington Stanley for four years when he was scouted by a Liverpool agent. It was that connection which eventually resulted in him being signed by the Rovers.

We here at Shuttleworth College are keen to support him in his new position and so have agreed for him to have a day release every Tuesday so that he can train with his new team whilst still keeping up with his academic pursuits. As Brandon explained, “I do it educationally. I take my work and do that for an hour as well as the training”. He has also chosen to take PE as a GCSE subject and we as a school are proud to be further helping him to achieve his goal of becoming a professional footballer. The whole Shuttleworth community has rallied around Brandon, who said, “My friends give me a lot of rubbish because they’re all Burnley fans, but I know they’re happy for me”.

He is already training with his new team and is “delighted” to have received his official Rovers strip. All of us are very proud of Brandon’s hard work and perseverance; it is clearly paying off and we are sure he will go on to great things.



Shuttleworth Stats

Above Average

With our Year 11 students having recently taken their mock exams, we have been closely monitoring the comparison tables and are pleased to announce that our results have come in between 10-20% above the national average for AQA science examinations at GCSE level.

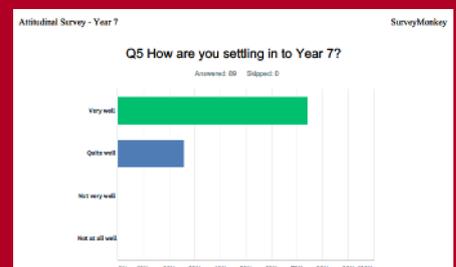
We are very impressed by the hard work of these pupils and we look forward to them replicating these results in the official exams.

Year 7 Satisfaction

Having received the results of our Year 7 attitudinal survey, we are very happy with the overwhelmingly positive response.

Every single student said that they were settling in well and 84% said they felt happy about Year 7. All of the teachers were described as “kind”, “welcoming”, and “really nice” and there was also high praise for Mr. Turner, our Year 7 pastoral leader. A great deal of the responses also mentioned making new friends as a major factor in helping them settle in and we are pleased that our younger students are having such positive social interactions within our community.

We will continue to strive to make the transition from primary school to Year 7 as smooth as possible.



Attendance

352 of our pupils, almost half of our whole student body, have the excellent attendance rating of 98% or more. We are very proud of all of their hard work, especially our Year 11s, who are really putting in the effort to ensure they are prepared for their exams.

Year 8 Pathways

Our Year 8 students have had their GCSE options interviews over the past week. Every student had discussed their progress with their teachers, before meeting with a member of our Senior Leadership Team, who supported them in choosing their subjects. Whether they opted for the EBacc or the Bespoke Pathway, and no matter which subjects they chose, all of our students are getting an education tailored to help them achieve their aspirations.

Every child has chosen their unique future pathway and we know each one leads to great things.



Revision, Revision, Revision

With GCSEs fast approaching, we aren't wasting one second of the time that our Year 11s are in school.

Mini revision sessions are happening every day during the 15 minute registration period at the start of the day. In this time, our fabulous teachers are coming up with ever more creative ways to reinforce the syllabus and keep spirits up in the countdown to exams. Form 11S revised the Anglo-Saxon social order by making a physical hierarchy - in costume! We had the entire class system - from Earls to an overthrown king.

Our intervention scheme is also helping every student to achieve the grades they deserve, providing them with more support if needed. There is Period 6 as well; a full timetable of after-school revision sessions which are available to our Year 11s if they want extra help or study time. These have proved popular, with attendance at an average of 88% for the whole year, but often getting above 90%.

We are doing all we can to ensure our students achieve their full potential in their upcoming exams and we wish them the best of luck.



Staff CPD

Here at Shuttleworth College we're working hard to ensure that our students aren't the only ones learning. The Continued Professional Development programme for our staff is second to none, putting us at the forefront of educational practice. Every Thursday evening we have training sessions of which every member of staff has a quota that they must attend, whilst the newly qualified teachers among our faculty have to attend every one. In the last session, Mel, our school medical officer, trained our team on how to treat anaphylactic shock and administer an EpiPen. These efforts not only promote the welfare of the children under their care, but it also creates a constantly improving team of people who make Shuttleworth College a wonderful place to be.

Order in the Court!

Our Year 7 students recently visited the National Justice Museum to learn about the British justice system.

Whilst there, they learnt about different legal professionals and court officials, including barristers, court clerks and ushers, as well as how to identify them. They had a great time visiting a real courtroom, where they dressed up and acted out the trial!

Following the visit, Shuttleworth received an email from the facilitator who showed the group around, with some very favourable feedback.

The group were described as having “asked well thought out questions”, “demonstrated a high level of understanding of the consequences of actions and how the law affects them”, and “excellent communication with teaching staff”. The staff at the Museum were clearly very impressed with our students, saying they were “very well behaved, polite and organised” and “a credit to the school”.

We are very proud of our students for achieving their best and upholding our College values to present such a positive image of our school.



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

We are back! Many of you will (I hope) have noticed we have not produced a newsletter for a number of weeks. This is due to the fact we have been recruiting our first media apprentice to lead our communication team. We have been lucky enough to secure Laura Nutter in this post. She will be producing newsletters, running twitter and generally keeping you up to date with life at Shuttleworth. We will publish a newsletter every fortnight.

Please contact her directly on lnutter@shuttleworth.lancs.sch.uk if you have some good news to share about your child or you would like to promote a community event.

Yours sincerely

Ruth England.

