

Academy VOICE

Autumn Term 2015



Welcome to our Winter edition of Academy Voice, which, I hope, gives you a flavour of what is happening at GCA, and a sense, perhaps, of some of the heights to which our staff and students are soaring.

As I write this, we have just bid farewell to last year's Year 11 students at their Achievement Evening. In my ten years as Headteacher at Garstang, I have had the privilege of working with a number of highly successful Year Groups who have attained record-breaking GCSE results and recorded outstanding extra-curricular achievements. However, the 2015 Leavers took success to a new level: 66% gaining 5 A* - C (including English & Maths), 80% gaining A* - C in English, and 76% gaining A* - C in Maths; their high Value-Added score of 1012 reflected their extraordinary success across the board, with outstanding results also being posted in the Sciences, Humanities, Modern Languages, Business, IT, Creative Arts and Design Technology. Of course, at GCA, we value all-round personal achievement, and it is important to remember that this versatile cohort won district and county sports tournaments across a range of sports and contributed significantly to our phenomenally successful aesthetic dimension. Most important, however, this humbling group of students will be remembered for raising the bar in terms of how young people conduct themselves on a daily basis in school.

Looking forward, our goal is to build on these past successes by proactively dotting various "i" 's and crossing various "t" 's in our quest to become a world-class school. In the classroom, for example, we are working hard to ensure that all our students identify and fill any individual learning "gaps" before they move on to a new unit, while behind the scenes, leaders are continuing to ensure that their teams of staff remain at the cutting edge of classroom practice. One of this year's Big Projects is our "Pitch-In" Initiative, as we seek to raise the funds to secure a state-of-the-art multi-purpose All-Weather Pitch at GCA which will benefit not only our students but also local sports clubs and individuals in the wider community. Thank you for your enduring support in an eventful and positive year!
Your Headteacher



P. Birch



This is an exciting time for the community of Garstang! This term we have launched our 'Pitch In for Garstang' appeal to raise funds for a shared All-Weather Pitch at GCA. The floodlit pitch will provide opportunities for a host of recreational sporting activities and Garstang Ladies Hockey Club have plans to make the pitch their home ground.

Our challenge is to raise £50,000! We have seen an overwhelming amount of support from our students, parents, staff and the Garstang community. We've had a Bake Off competition, sponsored events, cake sales, non-uniform days, a disco and a tombola at the Garstang Victorian Evening.

The Spring term continues with an exciting programme of fundraising events; why not join in the fun at the Garstang 10K & Fun Run on Sunday 10th January or the 'Woofs & Wellies' dog walk at Beacon Fell on Sunday 17th January.

Follow our progress on Twitter @GarstangAcademy and visit the website to see our Pitch In news and photos:
www.garstangcommunityacademy.com/PitchIn



YOUNG SCIENTISTS VISIT UCLAN



On the 10th November, 19 students from Year 8 spent the day at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN). The programme was run at the Young Scientist Centre where all the students became part of a research team and took part in scientific research aimed at proving whether there is life on Mars! Our students were divided into subgroups and were allocated a field of research to explore on the planet Mars. Everyone did a fantastic job at programming their personal Mars rovers and were able to successfully traverse the Mars surface and collect samples to study. After lunch each group performed an experiment with their sample - collectively aimed at providing evidence, looking at pH levels, nitrate levels, microbe levels and how water coped with exposure to the fluctuating temperatures of that on Mars.

By comparing their results the students came to the conclusion that if all the criteria's were met, then Mars could sustain life.

The students presented fantastic behaviour throughout the day and came away curious to learn more about the possibility of life on Mars and the potential of careers in Space Science. *Miss Sugden, Teacher of Science*



SPORTS AWARDS



On Wednesday 30th September Garstang Community Academy PE department hosted their annual Sports Awards Presentation Evening. The event celebrated the fantastic success of our students sporting performances throughout last year. Across all the year groups the school won 16 sporting honours across district and county competitions - a fantastic achievement!

The awards were presented by Adam Phillips, an ex Garstang student who is currently playing for Liverpool and England U21's. "It was a pleasure to have Adam present the awards and celebrate our fantastic student successes" *Miss Rainbow, Head of Girls PE.*

This year we have seen a record number of students participating in this Award. A total of 96 students from Year 9 enrolled in February 2015 and

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

most of them are on their way to achieving their Bronze Award this academic year. July saw the start of the expedition training with the teams travelling to Silverdale for the practice expedition. The weather was kind and students learnt all the skills needed in preparation for their qualifying expedition, which took place in September. For this expedition they undertook a journey from Coniston to Ambleside over 2 days, covering 15 miles and camping overnight at Baysbrown campsite in the Langdales. Everyone who committed themselves to this qualifying expedition enjoyed the experience.

In addition to the expedition section, the students have been involved in other activities which have been offered both in school and outside in the local community. These include participating in musical productions, sports teams, scouts & guides, assisting at primary after school clubs, gardening for elderly neighbours, first aid and bush craft. We look forward to presenting the Bronze Award to Year 10 students early next year.



ACHIEVEMENT EVENING 2015

The annual awards took place on Wednesday 11th November. Students, who left our school in summer '15, were presented with their exam certificates and over 30 special prizes were also awarded. As a year group these students attained the best GCSE results in the school history, in addition to outstanding sport and community achievements. Headteacher Mr Birch welcomed Principal Guest Speaker, Guy Topping, Managing Director of Barton Grange Garden Centre. Mr Topping presented individual subject award to the students and gave an inspiring speech. The evening was enjoyed by all and a great celebration.



Master Chefs

with Miss Meadows - Subject Leader of Design Technology

In Food Technology we make a range of dishes that progress skills from KS3 to KS4. Currently, Year 9 students are preparing a range of main courses and desserts which could be enjoyed by the family. So far this term they have cooked lasagne, meat & potato pie, swiss roll & a treacle tart. The students are now choosing their own dishes for an assessment.

In Year 11, the GCSE students are currently undertaking their 2nd piece of coursework looking at International Cuisine. They have been trialling dishes to prepare for their exam, from countries including Italy, France, Greece & USA.

I also hold a baking club after school on Wednesdays for Year 7 & 8 students where we make a range of sweet and savoury dishes - which vary depending on the students choice. We are currently undertaking a range of Christmas products and last week the students baked a Tunis cake.



MAMA MIA

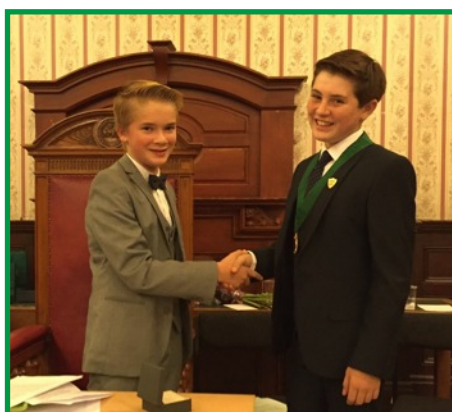
The GCA Creative Arts department will be performing a concert version of **MAMA MIA**

on Friday 18th March 2016 with key songs from the musical being performed by various music groups from soloists to concert band.

Tickets will be available on ParentMail in February



GARSTANG YOUTH COUNCIL



Congratulations to Year 9 student, Myles Sutcliffe, who was appointed Youth Mayor of Garstang in a civic ceremony on Thursday 15th October. The outgoing Youth Mayor, Oliver Atkinson - who is also a Year 9 student at GCA was presented with an achievement award for his outstanding work in the local community over the past year. Myles has chosen to support the ADAM Appeal for his charity this year and we wish him every success in his mayoral year.

SPORTS NEWS

Year 8 North Lancashire Rugby Champions - 20 schools took part, GCA won all 4 of our group stage games before defeating Our Lady's, Preston in the final.

Year 9 North Lancashire Runner Up - the Year 9's remained unbeaten throughout the competition, winning 3 games and 2 resulting in a draw.

Year 10 Football Team - came joint top of their football league beating Carr Hill, Lytham and Cardinal Allen.

U16 Rugby Team - undefeated at the half-way stage of the Wyre & Fylde competition. Results so far GCA 23 - 0 Baines & GCA 66 - 0 St Aiden's.

Rugby Practice - takes place after school on Mondays and this term has attracted over 100 boys from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 as well as up to 20 girls.

Year 7, 8, 9 & 10 Netball Fixtures - we have so far played 17 fixtures which has involved over 70 girls. Year 7's are currently undefeated.

Badminton - we are currently selecting the school badminton team and have started rugby, table tennis, hockey & basketball practices.

Year 8 Football Team - came 4th in the Fleetwood Town District Tournament.

Indoor Athletics - after Christmas we will be selecting the school indoor athletics team & also starting trampolining club.

Year 11 Netball - North League Runner up.

Table Tennis - U13 boys are the Lancashire Schools Winners and will now represent Lancashire in the next round in January 2016.

SPORTS NEWS... SPORTS NEWS... SPORTS NEWS

PARENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you to all the parents who completed and returned the recent questionnaire - we had 339 responses.

- ✓ 99% of parents are happy with the care that students receive.
- ✓ 97% of parents are happy with the teaching that students receive.
- ✓ 97% of parents are happy with how the school is led and managed.
- ✓ 97% of parents would recommend GCA to a friend.



Monday 4th January

Sunday 10th January

Wednesday 3rd February

Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th February

Thursday 11th February

15th - 19th February

Thursday 25th February

Friday 18th March

Thursday 24th March

Monday 11th April

School Reopens for all students

Garstang 10K and Fun Run

KS4 Curriculum Evening

C-R-Y Screening www.c-r-y.org.uk

Year 8 Progress Evening

Mid Term Closure

Year 7 Progress Evening

Creative Arts Mama Mia Performance

Closure after school

School Reopens for all students

Diary Dates



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