



Careers Update

Students' preparation for the world of work received a boost last month, with Year 11 mock interviews. Each year, the careers team at the Elizabethan invite local employers and businesspeople into school for the interviews, with students spending Personal Development lessons leading up to the day preparing CVs and Letters of Application and honing their interview technique.

Year 11 students said they had found the experience really beneficial. Joe Green said "It gave me a first-hand insight into how to get a job. It's a very useful thing to have done, and I'm sure it will help me in later life." Ryan Hobson added "I was a bit nervous before it started, but I got more confident as the interview went on. I got some really good feedback... he even offered me a job!"



Academy Principal, Christine Horrocks, said that preparing students for a successful future was the key priority for her and her staff. "Qualifications are important, but they are not the 'be all and end all'. At the Elizabethan, our leadership programme, combined with fantastic careers events such as this, helps students to develop the vital skills that employers are seeking."

Eisteddfod

Eisteddfod is the Welsh festival of Literature, Music and Performance. Head of Expressive Arts, Neil Brownhill (who happens to be Welsh), decided to have our very own Eisteddfod here at the Elizabethan. It will now be an annual inter-house event with the winning house claiming the beautiful Eisteddfod trophy.

The Eisteddfod is part of the Elizabethan's commitment to the Performing Arts, which saw us awarded ArtsMark status in January.

This year saw some fantastic entries from all faculty areas: performers in every discipline wowed the judges with their talent for singing, dancing, playing instruments or acting, and all other subjects supported the event with activities ranging from cake decorating to building 3D volcanoes.



The winning House this year was Galileo, and as they received their trophy, thunderous cheers could be heard around the whole of Retford.

In this Issue

Careers Update



Retford P16 Mock Referendum



Festive Events



The Elizabethan EISTEDDFOD



Bassetlaw Sports Award



Festive Events

Family Carol Service

Reverend Canon Walker warmly welcomed students, staff, parents and governors to the Elizabethan annual Christmas Carol Service at St Swithun’s Church. Our award winning choir started proceedings with their beautiful rendition of My Christmas Tree, followed by a selection of poignant readings and carols. The highlight of the evening were the wonderful songs sung by our Family Choir, with students from Carr Hill Primary School joining the Elizabethan singers.



Academy Principal, Christine Horrocks, gave thanks to all involved in the evening and spoke about the true meaning of Christmas and the important role our children play in our future. She quoted Nelson Mandela, who said “our children are the rock on which our future will be built”, before wishing everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Academy Christmas Concert

Our annual concert was very well attended and showcased our amazing talented students. Music, songs and solos were provided by our choir who were joined by students from our feeder school Sturton-le-Steeple. The school band, along with the percussion group and several soloists on piano, clarinet, rock guitars and vocals, delighted the audience with their performances.

Christmas Jumper Day

Staff and students at the academy and at Retford Post 16 gave their full support to Save the Children’s Christmas Jumper Day. There was an amazing array of Christmas jumpers and a variety of fund-raising activities in support of this very worthwhile cause.



Mock referendum at Retford Post 16

Year 12 students saw democracy in action earlier this month, with the visit of three local councillors to the Centre. Cllr Hazel Brand (Independent), Cllr Sarah Farncombe (Labour) and Cllr Tracey Taylor (Conservative) met with students and discussed local issues.

Their mission was not, however, to enrol new members to their respective parties but to recruit new voters for future elections. The focus of the session was on how democracy works and the importance of taking part in elections.

The session finished with a mock referendum on the question "Should people of retired age be allowed to vote?" Students got to cast their vote in real life ballot boxes, and there was overwhelming support in favour of the motion.



Pictured are the local politicians with Head Boy and Head Girl Tatenda Nyatoro and Abigail Robinson, themselves democratically elected members of the Centre's Extended Leadership Team.

Bassetlaw Sportswoman of the Year

The Elizabethan was proud to host the Bassetlaw Sports Awards again this December.

Alice Carley was nominated in the U14 Sportswoman category and won the award in recognition of her orienteering achievements. These include the British Schools Score Champion Year 8, East Midlands Score Champion and Nottinghamshire Orienteering Club Champion. Alice also represented Nottinghamshire as a member of the Junior Relay Squad at the Jan Kjellstrom International Orienteering Festival.



Shannan Dickenson was one of nine sportspeople nominated in the U16 Sportswomen category for all her achievements in equestrian events this year.

University update

Congratulations are due to Retford Post 16 Head Girl Abigail Robinson. Abi got her university application in ahead of schedule, and already has three offers, including one unconditional one from the University of East Anglia. Current favourite is the University of Leeds, which is offering her a three-year course to study Environmental Science plus a fourth year spent in either Australia or North America.

