



Christmas 2007



"THE EDGE" - WILLIAM BROOKES SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



"Merry Christmas" to all our readers!

CHILDREN IN NEED DAY



Visitors to school on 16th November had to 'bear with us' as students and staff found several inventive ways to raise money for Children in Need.

Finance Assistant Mrs Cooke (pictured here hiding in the 'jungle') spent the day dressed as a gorilla. Years 7-11 students (and some staff) brought in teddy bears to 'show they cared'. **Kayleigh Martell** and **Joseph Anderson**, who were our Year 8 receptionists on CIN day, helped persuade Mrs. Cooke to pose for the photo!

Tom Saunders, E8, won the raffle for a giant teddy bear. Sixth Form students (some of whom are pictured here) dressed as cowboys and Indians. The 'Guess the name of the twin bears' competition was won by Miss Weatherill (*Rosie and Jim*). Congratulations to the Year 10 College team and friends, supported by Mrs. Evans, who co-ordinated these activities and raised **£430**.





From the Head...



ONE SCHOOL PATHFINDER UPDATE

Students have been involved in a number of activities and events since October as key stakeholders for the planning of our new school.

Our priority is to make the period leading up to 2010 (when we take over our new building) a time when all our students benefit from the developments and improvements that we will be putting in place. We aim to have the "outstanding school" in place before the new building!

STAKEHOLDER UPDATE FORUM Thursday, 22nd November
Representatives from the earlier Stakeholder Visioning Conference were invited back to receive an update and make further contributions to the development of the design concept. Discussions included the issues of what will be affordable, and how to include as many of the aspirations as possible. The Project Board shared details of work to date with you and received feedback.

DQI BRIEFING SEMINAR Friday, 23rd November
The Design Quality Indicator (DQI) for Schools is a tool which provides a framework for the assessment of school design. It is used to assist teachers, parents, school governors, pupils, people from the community, local authority clients and building professionals achieve design excellence in new or refurbished school buildings and grounds.

The briefing seminar was used to help a group of key stakeholders form a consensus about priorities and ambitions for the design brief by defining what aspects are fundamental what would add value and what would achieve excellence in the completed building. This helps set priorities and answer questions such as, 'what do we want?', 'where do we want to spend the money?'

PARTICIPANTS:

Support Staff

Mrs Padfield
Mrs Dickinson

Classroom Teachers

Mr Brocklehurst
Ms Shenton

Senior Leaders

Mrs Cooper
Mr Renwick

Middle Leader

Mr Ali
Mr Petty

Governor

Mr Thorpe

Parent

Mrs Birt
Mrs Hadley

Student

Georgina Hanafin
Fliss Hill
Finnola Considine
Jeremy Davies
Tom Butler
Danny Budd

Shropshire County Council

Curriculum Adviser for PE
Premises Planning Officer
Property Services Officer
Lead Technical Adviser

Design Adviser

Kelvin White

STUDENT WORKSHOP Friday, 30th November

50 students from most year groups took part in a 3 hour workshop focused on their response to the non-teaching spaces in our new school. This was led by Ian Naylor, our Client Design Adviser.

This has been a full and busy term for everyone associated with William Brookes! The work of planning for our school rebuild has been intensive, though much of it has been behind the scenes, undertaken by the County Council officers and the technical advisory team. However November and December have seen a number of additional meetings, workshops and forums, some of which are detailed to the left.

The "Outline Business Case" is almost complete and we have already held an "Open Day" for contractors on the DCSF framework who will be bidding for the Design & Build contract in the new year, Students played a key role in this, as well as other recent events and consultations.

The next few months will see us working with architects to get a picture of what the school will be like in reality, So far we have only been discussing "design concepts" and considering planning, highways, transport and financial issues, along-side key issues such as sustainability.



You will read in this edition of "The Edge" of the group of Sixth Form students who travelled to Tabor in the Czech Republic with Mr Reece and Miss Bartlett to attend the sixth International Coubertin Youth Forum, as representatives of the only Coubertin School in the UK and we have proposed that the 2011 Forum be held in Much Wenlock, hosted in our new school. We await the response to this proposal. Meanwhile, in October another group of Sixth Form students travelled to Cysoing with the Much Wenlock Twinning Association, emphasising the developing international dimension of our school.

During our discussions in school relating to this aspect of the new school there have been many ideas put forward with respect to the design (e.g. rings, colours, houses, etc.) but we will be interested to see the ideas that the architects come up with to encapsulate the Olympic elements. The most significant aspect remains the desire to show how history lives on in the new school and how the ideas of achieving your personal best in all aspects of your life should predominate. Also of interest is the decision as to whether Houses should be re-named to relate to Olympism and whether the school motto should be re-worked to reflect William Penny Brookes' philosophy, outlook and influence.



May I take this opportunity, on behalf of students, staff and governors, to wish all our parents and friends of the school in our wide community a very happy and peaceful Christmas and also a happy new year. Our recent Sixth Form Panto, the Carol Service in Holy Trinity Church in Much Wenlock - with dance, music, drama, mulled wine, mince pies and the Christmas Draw - have all set the scene for a great festive period.

Meet our new staff...

Mrs Roberts, Pastoral Support Officer



Nicola Worrall of C9 (pictured with Mrs. R) and **Laura Stanier** of B8 interviewed Mrs Roberts about her life outside and inside school.

So, Mrs Roberts, do you have any children?

Yes I have two girls.

Tell us about where you worked before.

I used to work in a prison, teaching art and design, and then I worked in another secondary school in Telford & Wrekin..

What do you do in your spare time?

What spare time?!?

What made you want to work at William Brookes School?

Well one of the reasons was that I had heard only positive reports about this school and when I heard that there was a vacancy open I just had to apply.

What is your personality like?

I think that I am nice but at the same time quite firm.

Thank you Mrs Roberts, and she would also like to point out that she is always there when you need her help, next to Mrs Horsley's office.

Mr Biddle, ICT Network Manager

B8 students **Heather Brown** and **Laura Stanier** (pictured) interviewed Mr. Biddle.

Where did you work before you worked here?

I've worked at a secondary school in Warrington for seven years, and I've also been in the Army.

Why did you join the Army?

It had always been my ambition.

What job did you do in the Army?

I used to drive tanks. I nearly pinched one once.

Gasp!! Why?

Because I thought it would be fun! I was going to give it back, honestly, but it was very interesting that we got it from the Middle East all the way to Germany without anyone wondering why we had it with us! We were even on the TV news.

What do you think of WBS so far?

I just love it and I think that the people here are ever so nice.



Mrs Robinson,
Examinations
Officer.

**Kayleigh
Martell, E8**, went
to interview her...

"Mrs. Robinson
used to be a Maths
teacher and she is
now our exams
officer. Some of
our students

already know her, as she has previously worked as a supply teacher here at William Brookes. Now she is trying hard to get to know everyone else, and she also has to learn a lot of new computer skills. She has had lots of help from all the staff in the school. Mrs. Robinson says that knowing all the staff makes her job a lot easier! SHE LOVES HER JOB !!

Other staff who joined us recently:

Miss Taylor, Head's PA

Miss Haddon-Gill, Receptionist.

Miss Wake, Modern Languages Teaching Assistant

Mlle Marquez, French Assistante

Other staff changes:

Mrs Grainger (Receptionist), **Mr Jones** (Exams Officer), **Mr Hayward** (Network Manager) and **Mrs Williams** (Leadership Team Assistant) have recently left us.

Mrs Hudson is now working as the PA to the Assistant Heads & Head of Sixth Form.

Ms Murray is now PA to the Co-Head, Mr Renwick

Mr Jandrell will be leaving the Music department at the end of this term.

Ms Duckworth will be joining the Performing Arts team as our new Music teacher in January.



Honours Marks Certificates

25 Honours Marks

Saffron Allen, W8	Abbie Lovegrove, H7
Ellie Ball, H7	Kayleigh Martell, E8
Alice Britten, B7	Joshua McWalters, B7
Jade Budding, E7	Nicola Moore, C7
Alex Bunch, E7	George Morris, E7
Jay Butler, W7	Molly Nash, H7
Lucy Byard, C7	Elizabeth Neale, B7
Alex Carrington, H7	Hayley Neale, Q7
Katie Carter, B7	Maryann Nedic, C7
Jack Case, H7	Jessica Nicholas, H7
Chloe Childs, E7	Ciaran Owen, H7
Jack Collins, E7	Georgia Parkinson, H7
Alice Cotton, Q7	Emily Pell, B7
Angharad Crump, E7	Rupert Preen, C7
Emma Edwards, B7	Luke Pritchard, E8
Bronwyn Evans, W7	Isla Rees, C7
Charlotte Evans, W7	Shannon Richards, E8
Robert Evans, H7	Grace Ridgway, H7
Wynta Flint, W7	George Robinson, W7
Jaymz Goodman, Q7	Kimberley Roche, H7
Richard Hadley, H7	Lily Rye, Q7
Chloe Hammond, Q7	Sophie Shires, C7
Adam Hark, C7	Emma Skyvington, W7
Jake Heath, C7	Joe Slater, B7
Kacey Hislop, C7	Laura Tonks, C7
Daniella Hughes, C7	Jamie Turner, B7
Sophie Hughes, W7	Madeline Wheatley, E7
Samantha Hyde, H7	Lauren Williams, E7
Kadie Jones, E7	Selina Willmore, Q7
William Lea, H7	Rebecca Woolley, B7
Natalie Lewis, H7	Rebecca Wrelton, E8
	Kiah York, Q7

50 Honours Marks

Michael Andrews, H7	Rachel Headworth, E7
Ashley Bateman, Q7	Elizabeth Jenkins, H7
Liam Brach, B7	Kate Lefroy, C7
Amy Bridges, E7	Sarah Price, B7
Roxanne Clark, C7	Kenna Pritchard, E7
Olivia Drysdale, W7	Kezia Robinson, H7
Jaya Ellis-Perks, W7	Lucy Snell, H7
Matthew Fielding, H7	Hollie-Jo Taylor, Q7
Katie Grace, B7	Rosie Thomas, B7Liam
Hayfield, Q7	Lucy Turner, E7
	Ryan Woolley, H7

A special plea from the PE Department - PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT ALL KIT IS CLEARLY MARKED WITH YOUR NAME! Clothing and equipment is often lost or mislaid due to the lack of this very simple precaution.

“Hello from Canada!”

...says former WBS student, Johnathon Rogers, now studying Physics at university in Canada...

“My first year at Trent University was very challenging and like most people I found it difficult at times; however, my grades were good, I've met and made many new friends and I'm now well into my second year. Trent has a vast variety of international connections, so for my third year I'm considering going to either Botswana or Australia. (How different could any two countries be?!)

The class sizes at Trent are much smaller than many universities. There are about 8 students in my lectures and 3 when I'm working in the labs. This means that we get lots of one-to-one attention, and the Professor I have in Physics is great! He is really enthusiastic and explains things brilliantly. Another bonus is that he also moved from England not long ago.

Paul is doing well at high school, he too seems to be having fun here and I believe he is enjoying playing his football (soccer). The rest of the family is also doing well. I often think of my time at William Brookes and am grateful for the fact that my time there (with the help of all excellent staff) gave me the opportunity to study at university.

I've been with my girlfriend Julie for a year now. We met in the first year Halls of Residence and she is here studying German and Spanish with a minor in Business (which is great because I don't have to worry about any language but English now!) We were in Britain last August together. I had a car for 2 of the weeks we were there and I drove over 2,000 miles. We went all the way up to York, down to the white cliffs of Dover, across to Plymouth, round Wales and to the top of Snowdon! I think I saw more of my home country in 2 weeks than in my whole life!”

Trutex school uniform

All parents received a catalogue from Trutex in the Summer Term, with many prices held at the same level as last year.

Sweatshirts, for example, are still priced at £13.50 to £14.50.

To order, call 0870 600 1033, or order online at

www.trutexdirect.com

Please remember that sweatshirts from Trutex and SR Embroidery in Broseley are now the only approved tops to wear over shirts and blouses in school.

In addition, we are able to supply some second-hand sweatshirts at **greatly reduced prices**. Please ask our Reception office staff for more details.

We held an “Anti-Bullying Week” 19-23 November. Students attended workshops during their PSHE lesson time from Terence Higgins Trust (Homophobic bullying) and an organisation representing Traveller children as a minority group.

Congratulations!



Head's Commendations

have recently been awarded to:

Saffron Allen	W8	PSHE	Lucy Jarvis	13NT	PE
Michael Andrews	H7	History	Elizabeth Jenkins	H7	PSHE and Science
Francesca Armstrong	H8	PSHE	Emily Jones	W8	PSHE
Katherine Backhouse	W8	PSHE	Sam Jones	W9	D&T
Elyse Beardmore	13JSP	PE	Georgia Kinton	W8	PSHE
Alice Britten	B7	Art	Joanna Law	Q8	Art
Jessica Brophy	E9	Geography	Kate Lefroy	C7	Art
Greg Budd	Q9	D&T	Amy Lloyd	C10	PSHE
Paige Cadman	E9	D&T	Sheeva Malakouti	B10	PSHE
Kimberley Carter	B8	English	Hayley Neale	Q7	Art
Mollie Caston	Q11	D&T Food	Billie Newson	C10	PSHE
James Cieslik	13JSP	PE	Olivia Nicholls	B8	RE x 2 and Geography
Oliver Cieslik	E11	PE	Sian Oliver	B10	PSHE
Tanya Coldicott	H10	PSHE	Darren Page	E11	History
Tom Crane	E11	Mathematics	Shani Page	C7	RE
Ieuan Dadswell	13WT	PE	Joe Palmer	W10	PSHE
Hayley Davies	13NT	PE	Olivia Phillips	E11	English
Jeremy Davies	9E9	RE	Rupert Preen	C7	History
Laura Davies	H8	PSHE	Kenna Pritchard	E7	History
Katie Dean	13NT	PE	Luke Pritchard	E8	Community
Lara Dinkha	C8	English	Emma Louise Reynolds	Q10	PSHE
Nathan Farlow	W8	PSHE	Shannon Richards	E8	Citizenship
Phoebe Farrell	13NT	PE	Ashley Ridgeway	H9	D&T
Lawrence Flynn	13JSP	PE	Roxy Robinson	C8	English and PE
Kirsty Gill	E8	Citizenship	Sian Rounsley	C7	History
Joanne Grainger	W8	PSHE	Andrew Row	Q11	PE and PSHE
Ellie Halse	H10	PSHE	Emily Rushworth	B11	PSHE
Adam Hark	C7	History	Kate Singleton	E11	English x 2
Jessica Harrington	W10	PSHE	Charlotte Snell	C9	D&T and History
Kacey Hislop	C7	Geography	Lucy Snell	H7	History
Jessica Howley	13WT	PE x 2	Cassie Stocking	Q8	English
Megan Howley	H9	DT	Max Thomas	C9	D&T
Grace Howson	C9	History	Lucy Turner	E7	Art
Sophie Hughes	W7	PSHE	Liam Veric	H10	PSHE
Rebecca Ingram	13WT	PE	Christopher Walthorne	W11	Science
	and		Hayley Wells	W10	Art
Ashley James	E11	Art	Lauren Williams	E7	History
			Thomas Wootton	W10	Maths and English
			Ivan Wroe	W7	English
			Jacob Wyatt	8W8	PSHE
			Kiah York	Q7	PSHE



FOCUS ON LANGUAGES

Merry Christmas Around the World

Which language would you be speaking if you wished people "Merry Christmas!" as follows?

- *Prejeme Vam Vesele Vanoce a stastny Novy Rok*
- *Glædelig Jul*
- *Vrolijk Kerstfeest en een Gelukkig Nieuwjaar! or Zalig Kerstfeest*
- (inupik) *Jutdlime pivdluarit ukiortame pivd-luaritlo!*
- *Hyvaa joulua*
- *Joyeux Noel!*
- *Kala Christouyenna!*
- *Buone Feste Natalizie!*
- *Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia or Boze Narodzenie*
- *Feliz Natal!*
- *Pozdrevlyayu s prazdnikom Rozhdestva is Novim Godom*
- *Feliz Navidad!*

French Greek Eskimo Swedish Italian Danish
 Finnish Spanish Czech Dutch Welsh Polish
 Russian Portuguese

Christmas in Germany

Christmas preparations often begin on the eve of December 6th. People often set aside special evenings for baking spiced cakes and cookies, and making gifts and decorations. Little dolls of fruit are traditional Christmas toys.

Children leave letters on their windowsills for **Christkind**, a winged figure dressed in white robes and a golden crown who distributes gifts. There is also a Christmas Eve figure called **Weihnachtsmann** or **Christmas Man**; he looks like Santa Claus and also brings gifts.

Germans make beautiful gingerbread houses and cookies. The German Christmas tree pastry, **Christbaumgebäck**, is a white dough that can be moulded into shapes and baked for tree decorations.

In Germany they also have advent wreaths of holly with four red candles in the centre. They light one candle each Sunday from the beginning of December and light the last one on Christmas Eve. Children count the days until Christmas using an Advent calendar.

Many thanks to Mrs. C. Crowther, Head of Modern Foreign Languages, for these articles.

Christmas in France

On Christmas Eve, children leave their shoes by the fireplace to be filled with gifts from **Père Noël**. In the morning they also find that sweets, fruit, nuts and small toys have been hung on the tree.

At Christmastime nearly every French home displays a Nativity scene or **crèche**, which serves as the focus for the Christmas celebration. The crèche is often peopled with little clay figures called **santons** or "little saints." In addition to the usual Holy Family, shepherds, and Magi, the craftsmen also produce figures in the form of local dignitaries and characters. The craftsmanship involved in creating the gaily coloured santons is quite astounding and the moulds have been passed from generation to generation since the seventeenth century. Throughout December the figures are sold at annual Christmas fairs in Marseille and Aix.

The French make a traditional Yule log-shaped cake called the **bûche de Noël**, which means "**Christmas Log**." This traditional Christmas cake, with other food in great abundance, is served at the grand feast of the season, which is called **le réveillon**. Le réveillon is a very late supper held after midnight mass on Christmas Eve. The menu for the meal varies according to regional culinary tradition. In Alsace, goose is the main course, in Burgundy it is turkey with chestnuts, and the Parisians feast upon oysters and pâté de foie gras. Le Réveillon may consist of poultry, ham, salads, cake, fruit and wine.

In Southern France, a log is burned in people's homes from Christmas Eve until New Years Day. A long time ago, part of the log was used to make the wedge for the plough as good luck for the coming harvest.

Once dinner is over and the family has retired to bed, they leave a fire burning and food and drink on the table in case the Virgin Mary calls in. Children leave their shoes or wooden clogs called **sabots** in the hearth for the Christ Child or **Père Noël** to fill. In the north of France, children were traditionally given gifts on December 6th, which is St. Nicholas' Day, instead of Christmas Day.

Coubertin International Youth Forum

On Saturday 22nd September, seven Sixth Form students (**Lawrence Flynn, Kelly Davies, Stuart Preston, Moira Kelly, Melissa Sharpe, Charlotte Wood and Bethan Pugh**), accompanied by Miss Bartlett and Mr. Reece, left for the 6th Coubertin International Youth Forum which this year was held in Tabor, in the Czech Republic. William Brookes school is the only 'Coubertin' school in Britain, due to our Olympic links, and we are proud to be allied with the other 49 Coubertin schools worldwide.

(Continued on page 10)



FOCUS ON LANGUAGES

This term we have welcomed two new members of staff to the Languages Department, Miss Wake our new Teaching Assistant and Madame Marques our new French Assistante, who will mainly be working with our GCSE and A level students. Here is what they have to say about themselves:



Madame Marques

Madame Marques...

"I was born in Portugal and I arrived in France at the age of 2. I lived in Reims for 30 years, in the north east of France. I then left for Provence. I stayed there until August this year. In September, I arrived in the UK with my small family, having met a man from Ludlow.

I've now started work as a French Assistant at William Brookes School. I've been really warmly welcomed here and the pupils I've met have shown real motivation in their learning of the French language."

Miss Wake...

"I have lived in Shropshire for 21 years. After completing my A levels in French, Spanish and Law, I attended Liverpool John Moore University where I obtained a joint honours degree in French and European Studies. I am now living back at home and working as the TA in the Languages Department. I have thoroughly enjoyed the first few weeks of working at WBS and have received a warm welcome from both the students and the staff."



Miss Wake

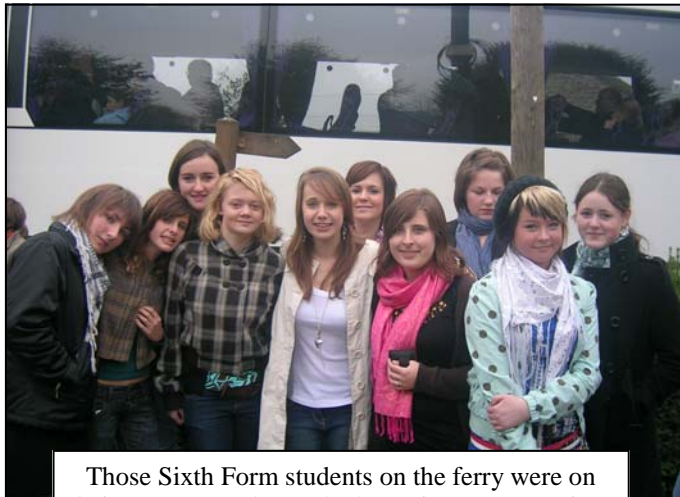
**Why are some of our Sixth Form students sitting on a cross-channel ferry?
Turn the page to find out!**





FOCUS ON LANGUAGES

Cysoing Visit



Those Sixth Form students on the ferry were on their way to Much Wenlock's twin town, Cysoing!

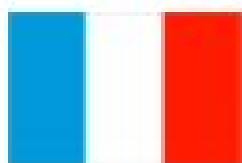
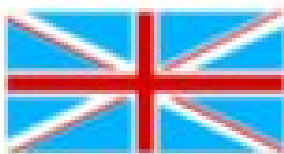
French Exchange trip to Cysoing!

"During October half term six French sixth form students were lucky enough to take part in a French exchange trip to Cysoing, in the north of France. We went for four days with the Much Wenlock twinning group and were hosted by some really friendly French families. On our first day we visited the local French school and were able to experience what the lessons are like over there. I took part in physics and biology lessons with my French friend, Noemi, and at the end of the day we all went to talk to the students in an English lesson. We introduced ourselves and William Brookes School to them in the lesson, and presented them with a board of photographs of Much Wenlock and William Brookes at the end! (Pictured, right.) It was really good fun and great to have the chance to experience life in a French school first hand.

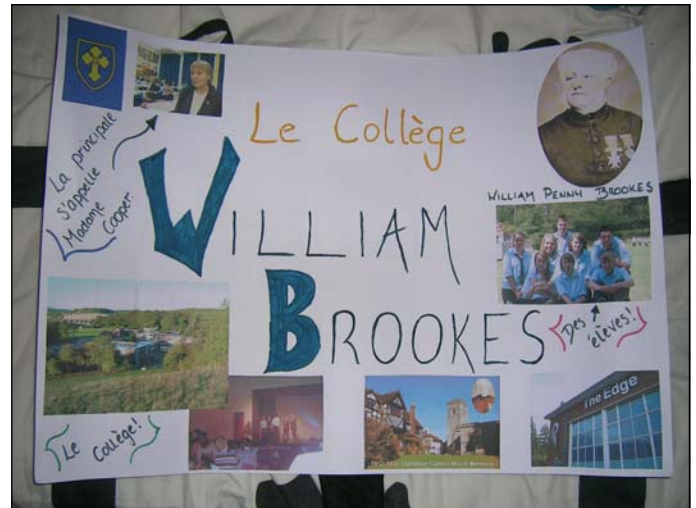
We spent the rest of our time there shopping in Lille, which was fantastic!! And our evenings were spent in the local 'Salle de fete' where we all met up, French and English, for a little party!
C'etait fantastique! Something I would definitely recommend to anybody learning French!"

- Report by **Melissa Sharpe**

We're grateful to Melissa for all the photos on these pages of students and their presentation boards about William Penny Brookes and our school.



Many thanks to **Mrs. C. Crowther**, Head of Modern Foreign Languages, for giving us these articles.



Cysoing Trip - October 2007

"During our four day stay we visited 'le lycée' which is the French equivalent of an English Sixth Form. We spent half a day in French lessons with our hosts and the other half in an English lesson where they held us a party, including what they perceived to be 'traditional' English foodcaramel and apple tea!!

We spent Saturday in Lille shopping, what we English girls do best!! Saturday night was spent at a party held in the 'Salle de William Brookes' at the local school.

Importantly we got a great taste of French culture - speaking their language, drinking their wine and having fun with our French friends including a squirry cream fight."

- Report by **Gabby Hill and Daisy Way**

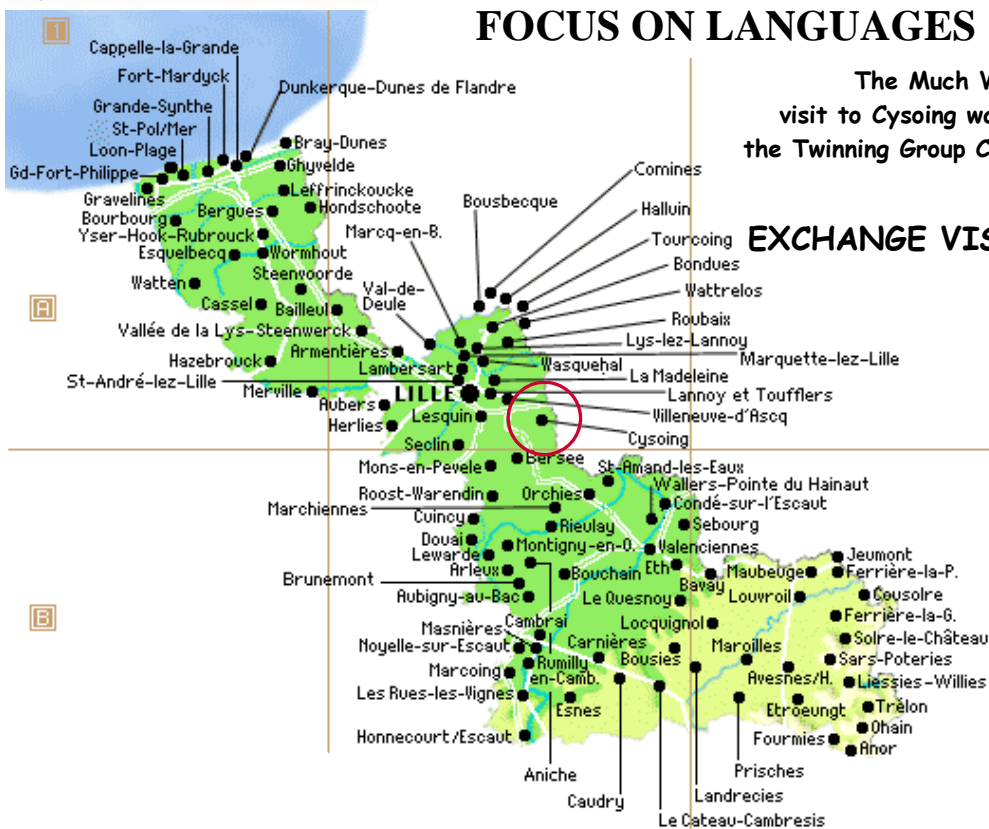
*WBS Sixth Former **Mark Robinson** also took part in the twinning trip. He tells us...*

In October I went to Cysoing with the French Twinning group from Thursday 25th October until we returned on Sunday 28th. During the three days that we spent in Cysoing we were involved in many activities organized by the twinning committee.

When we arrived at Cysoing we were welcomed by the people of Cysoing at their town hall where refreshments had been prepared for us. Over the next two days we were involved in activities such as a football match with the French and a visit to a Second World War museum. The people of Cysoing were very considerate and kept us interested throughout the trip. They also tried to give us help when we struggled with our French. There was always something to do and there was never a dull moment on the trip. Furthermore I feel for many of us it greatly helped with our French and I would strongly recommend anyone who can join the twinning group. Everyone had a good time and improved their French.



FOCUS ON LANGUAGES



The Much Wenlock Twinning Group's Exchange visit to Cysoing was a huge success, as Joyce Piper, the Twinning Group Chairman, highlights in this extract from their recent newsletter....

EXCHANGE VISIT GETS EVEN BETTER!

A record number of 51 members travelled to Cysoing for the 2007 Exchange Visit, including a group of A level students from William Brookes School. Our friends in Cysoing certainly did us proud; they were so hospitable and generous.

We've received many messages of thanks since returning, including one from Major Jeremy York who joined us for the first time: "I was particularly impressed with all the youngsters -

such a sparky and likeable bunch. The Much Wenlock gang were a delight to be with - enthusiastic, good-natured and courteous - and the Sixth Formers (**Lucy Martin, Katie Griffiths, Melissa Sharpe, Gabby Hill, Mark Robinson and Daisy Way**) were particularly impressive".

The programme included a visit to La Coupole, a vast underground bunker from which Germany had planned to launch the V2 rocket on London in 1944; a meal in a Flemish estaminet; a talk and slide show by Major York about the history of the KSLI buried bugles and how the twinning idea was started; a visit to a chateau; various meals and social gatherings which included a wine tasting, a selection of traditional wooden bar games, music by a group of English and French musicians and a '20-a-side' England v. France football match for all ages which ended 1-1! (Well done our team, especially **Tom Aberley** who played so hard and nearly got his nose broken).

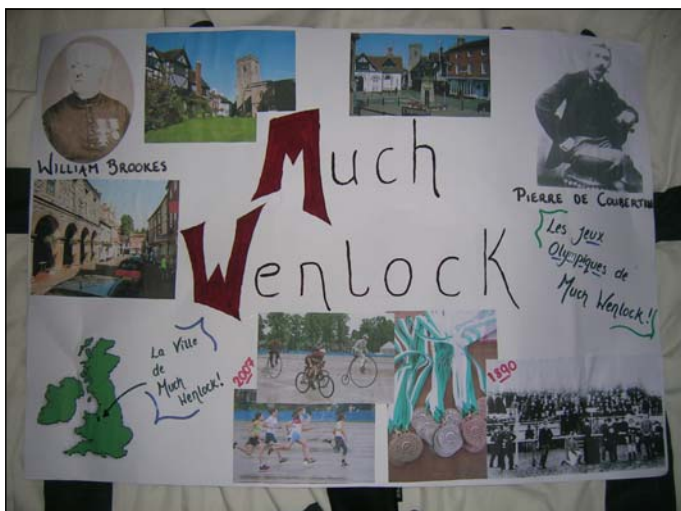
During the social event on Saturday, a framed photograph of William Penny Brookes was presented to the Mayor of Cysoing. This will hang in the town's sports hall, recently renamed the "Salle William Penny Brookes".

A final mention should go to the 6th formers who went with their French host students to the Lycée on the Friday - an experience I'm sure they will always remember!"

Our Sixth Form students also even had a mention in the local French press (*La Voix du Nord*) and a number of them will now be returning to Cysoing over February half-term to stay with French families and do some work experience over there. Bravo!

Here's a short extract from the lengthy report carried in the '*La Voix du Nord*' article of 1st November 2007 on the twinning trip:

'Il est à noter que Daisy, Gabriella, Melissa, Katy, Lucy et Ambre (*sic*), six jeunes Britanniques, ont été accueillies par le lycée de Genech pour découvrir le modèle éducatif français. Leur conclusion: «*Les petits Français, ils sont très timides.*»'





(Continued from page 6)

COUBERTIN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FORUM

Bethan reports...

“One of the aims of the trip was to complete the Pierre de Coubertin award, which involved participating in 5 disciplines. These were various athletics events combined with swimming, a cultural arts performance, an Olympic based knowledge test, discussion groups based on Olympics values and a cross-country run. In each discipline, students were awarded a certain number of points and, in order to pass, a target of 80 had to be reached, which all the William Brookes students successfully achieved. Throughout the week we Sixth Formers had the opportunity to get to know students from 18 different countries around the world, ranging from Australians to Kenyan pupils. All the participants enjoyed this and found interacting and socialising easy, with exciting activities, such as an excursion to Prague, various sporting games, and cultural dances.

All students thoroughly enjoyed the trip and were able to bring back home fond memories and lots of new friends.



Music

Mrs. Jaeger tells us what's



happening in our busy Music Department...

Music Express featured bands from school on 31st October. A small audience enjoyed the Ska band and ‘Descend From Above’.

Friday 16th November saw a brilliant production of ‘**Romany Wood**’ composed by David Gaukroger, with libretto written by David Carr. We were fortunate enough to have both the composer and librettist as part of our performance. The choir sang beautifully and were accompanied by a small orchestra of students from different years, which gave special colour to the performance. The evening featured soloists in the first half of the concert accompanied by David Gaukroger.

Saturday 24th November was the date for our annual ‘**Battle of the Bands UK**’ in conjunction with the Wenlock Live Arts Festival. The day started at 8.30am, setting up a professional rig from Insert Audio. Each band had a sound check from 11-12.30pm. The contest began at 2 pm and each band performed a 10-minute set. There were two categories, soloists and duets, with the bands section having the most contestants. The judges were **Aidan Laverty** (Music composer), **Nico** (Graphic designer/guitarist) and **John Carter** (ex-band musician) and they worked hard to decide on the winners, who were:

Solo/Duet

Richard Baker and Jasmine King from Lord Silkin School.

Descend From Above – William Brookes

Many thanks to all the schools who took part. We were entertained by musicians from Shrewsbury Sixth Form College, Ludlow School, Lord Silkin School, Wakeman School and The Phoenix School. Thanks also to Live Arts for stewarding, and to The Edge staff for Front-of-House and lighting. Also a big thank you to students **Tam Caddick, Joe Isherwood, Phil Tunnel** and **Richard Yates** for their help throughout. A great day was had by all.

The evening concert featured the following eight acts that battled it out for a cup or shield, and the prize of a recording to be made at William Brookes School:

Inertia
Fase 26

No Label
Vagrants

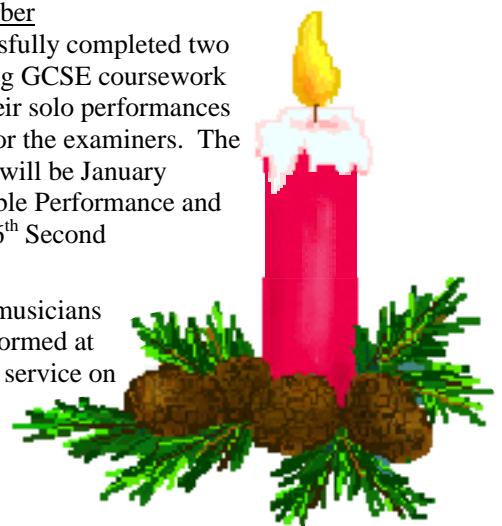
Descend From Above
High Voltage
Jasmine & Richard
Joe Isherwood

Phoenix
New College
Shrewsbury 6th Form
William Brookes
Ludlow
Shrewsbury 6th Form
Wakeman
William Brookes
Lord Silkin
Lord Silkin
William Brookes

26th/27th November

We have successfully completed two days of recording GCSE coursework for Year 11. Their solo performances are now ready for the examiners. The next recordings will be January 28th/29th Ensemble Performance and February 25th/26th Second composition.

Finally, school musicians and singers performed at the annual carol service on Monday 17th December at Much Wenlock Parish Church.



Library Latest...

New books

Recent additions to our stock have included:

- The ever-popular Guinness World Records and Ripley's 'Believe it or not'
- Lots of lovely new fiction! Many of these books were obtained via the latest Cover2cover Bookclub leaflet promotions, so once again many thanks to everyone who ordered books. Parents - please ask students to hand future orders in to **Library staff** (who issue receipts on the spot), *not* to their tutors or our Reception office.

Old books

With no students to supervise on Target Setting Day, we took the opportunity to start weeding our non-fiction shelves of outdated books. So far, with the literature and geography/history sections yet to be reached, we have removed over 900 books! Not all of these have been discarded, however. Over 50 will be taken back to Schools Library Service in exchange for newer books. Some have been donated to relevant school departments. Some will be offered for sale to students at bargain prices in the new year, and some will be kept aside for the book stall at the PTA's annual May Fayre. The shelves look much fresher as a result of this exercise, and we have noticed an increase level of interest in the

sections that we have finished.

Library Assistants

We held a Library Assistants' training session (and Christmas picnic!) on the last Thursday of term. The students worked hard, discovering the delights of the Dewey Decimal classification system.

World Book Day

The date for 2008 is Thursday 6th March. As usual, every student will be offered a **free £1 book token** to spend in participating bookshops, or as part payment for orders from our own "Cover2Cover" bookshop leaflets.

Homework Club

The Library remains open Mondays-Thursdays until 5pm (4pm on Fridays) with the Librarian on hand to help students find information. The Senior Teaching Assistant is also available after school every Wednesday. Students have access to all library resources, including computers, and are asked to fill in a register after school - this is so that we know who is in the building in case of an emergency. The 'late bus' to Broseley, Madeley, etc. continues to run and leaves the school car park at 5.15 pm.

Free Books

The free books for Year 7s have arrived! A new Government initiative this year, each Year 7 student was offered a choice from 13 excellent titles. Our picture shows an excited B7 tutor group with Mr. Pyle on the day their books were delivered!



Christmas Greetings from former Assistant Librarian Mrs. Palmer...

Both Nicholas and I are looking forward to our first Scottish Christmas and Hogmanay here in Newton Stewart.

Nobody who knows me will be surprised to learn that I spend hours in our local Library; I have been busy researching my family tree.

Given all the problems we had selling the house my proposed dates for the new booklets of World War Two memories have slipped. They could well include stories from local residents!

I have already met three people who were evacuated to Shropshire during WW2. One was evacuated to Shrewsbury, one to Longden-on-Tern and one to *Much Wenlock!*

I hope you all have a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Prefects Awards for the Autumn Term were awarded to the following students at the end of term Assembly:

James Eccles, W11 Oliver Locker, H11
Oliver Jones, E11 Bertie Rowlands, C11

Peer Educators - Congratulations to Robbie Smith, Alice Laycock and Emily Rushworth in Year 11, and Dayle Marshall, Jodie McCormick and Liam Hall from Year 9 who have all been nominated for a British Red Cross Humanitarian Citizen Award.

Rosie Robinson, E10, asked the best questions in Shropshire in the "I'm a Councillor, get me out of here!" competition, run through the PSHE Department. Rosie has been decreed student winner for the area and she has won £20 of WHSmith vouchers. Well done!

A Year 7 student is planning to produce a new school magazine especially for Key Stage 3 students. If you're interested in becoming a contributor, or even writing to 'Agony Aunt', please contact **Kenna Pritchard, E7**.

This year's J. L. Edwards Awards winners recently gave their presentations to an audience of friends, parents and J. L. Edwards Memorial Trustees in our Arts Centre.

Students may apply for next year's Awards from the Trust next term, so should start thinking now about any project they may wish to put forward for consideration. Awards are made to students who have best exemplified the School motto: "Courtesy, Enterprise and Endeavour". Their activity or project should enhance their education and personal development in some way, be something worthwhile and also be something they will enjoy. This is a chance to undertake something they have always wanted to do!

Shire Services, who provide the cleaning service at William Brookes School, have a vacancy for a

Cleaning Assistant

Hours of Work: 10.42 hours per week
3.45 pm - 5.55 pm (Mon- Fri)
(Term time and periodic)

Duties: General cleaning duties

Rate of Pay: £6.00 per hour

Benefits: Full training will be given to successful applicants

Contact: For an application form and further details please ring 01743 254547 quoting job number

Job Number D07 / 231

The Commandery, Worcester - the Year 8 trip!

Year 8 History students visited the newly-refurbished Commandery in Worcester on 6th and 7th November, as part of their study of the English Civil War period. Year 8 Student reporter **Jo Law** tells us about it...

"When we arrived, we were split up. We went upstairs and looked at the weapons they used during the Civil War. I got a chance to use, well, hold the pike. (I didn't actually attack anyone with it!) It was a bit funny when some of the people dressed up because the clothes were very odd and the armour looked as if it was all about to fall apart.

Target Setting Day

Enabling students to achieve their best!



On Wednesday 14th November, there were no lessons for students at WBS. Instead, we held our whole-school Target Setting Day, when all students came into school with their parents for a pre-arranged individual discussion with teachers. In this way, we are able to review students' current progress across all subjects and to set important targets and priorities for

BP Carbon Challenge Roadshow

The Carbon Challenge is a high-impact Science, Maths and Enterprise roadshow for 14 to 16 year old students. Up to 180 students work together over two two-hour sessions to examine a school's carbon footprint and learn about carbon reduction through a variety of activities using film, websites, interactive calculators, 3D-style mats and other visual material.

On 27th November, our Year 10 students were given the opportunity to take part in one of these events. The cross-curricular workshops linked Science, Maths, Geography, Citizenship and Enterprise, and the focus of the session was to help our students understand what actions would reduce carbon output.

Our **Sixth Form Open Evening** was held on 21st November. The **Non-Uniform Day** on Friday 14th December raised £650 for our School Council, who will be making a donation to Cuan House, local animal rescue centre.



Parents!

Is the Sixth Former in your house missing out on the **Educational Maintenance Allowance?**

If your combined household income for the 2006/07 tax year is less than £30810, your son or daughter may be eligible to claim the EMA. This gives them up to £30 cash a week to help them stay on at school. Collect a form from Miss J. Brown or Miss C. Fisher.



Health Day

Students in Years 7 - 11 attended a Health Day on 28th November, when a number of external organisations set out exhibitions and information points in the School Hall in order to provide our students with the opportunity to discover more about key health-related issues. We sent 'Edge' reporter **Heather Brown, B8**, and photographer **Toby Jones, W8**, to find out more. Heather tells us that the representatives included:

- Drugs/Substance Misuse Team
- Cycling
- Gay/Lesbian
- School Nurse
- Food Bar
- Brilliant Orange Machine (pictured right with Heather)
- Police
- Relateen
- Art Therapy
- Alcohol information

"Our favourite stall was the Orange Machine. This was a machine that squeezed oranges to make juice. When you poured it, no bits came out. It was lovely and fresh and uses a special kind of orange. We might possibly be getting one in school. We didn't do the Fruit test (where you had to name lots of different fruits—some of them were easy, but some were very odd things we'd never seen before!) because we ran out of time."



The Fruit Test

Could you name all these different fruits and vegetables?



PTA NEWS

Much Wenlock Victorian Christmas Fayre

We had a stall in the High Street for the whole of Saturday 1st December, selling mulled wine and mince pies, and raising £714 for school funds. We're very grateful to those parents who helped on the day and those who donated mince pies.

We were also busy with the mince pies and mulled wine at the school's Carol Service on Monday 17th December. It was a great way to start the Christmas festivities!

Supporting the School

We asked school departments to tell us how we could help them, and received bids for funds. We are delighted to have been able to hand over £730 to support various areas of the school this term.

Join our PTA 100+ Club!

You should by now have received a reminder about your subscription! If not, please contact the school! All proceeds are used to purchase those 'extras' that can make such a difference to your child's experience of school.

The last draw from last year's 100+ Club was made recently, and the lucky winners were:

£50	Janice Manning
£20	Melanie Revolta
£10	Leanne McMurray
£10	Barbara Whitehouse
£10	Penny Jaegar

Congratulations to **Sophie Rhodes-Martin**(Q11), **Lisa Rhodes-Martin** (E11) and **Alice Robinson** (E10) who have all been selected for the Under-17 Shropshire Hockey Squad.

This is the fourth year that Sophie has represented the county, the third year for Lisa and the second year for Alice.

LOST PROPERTY

It is amazing how much our Reception Office collects on a *daily* basis! Increase your chances of being quickly reunited with your belongings by ensuring that *everything* is clearly marked with your name. Please do NOT bring valuable items into school!

Are you 13-19?

Unsure about your future?

Come and talk to Helen Johnson, the Connexions advisor attached to William Brookes School, about:

- Jobs
- Learning
- Relationships
- Courses
- Health
- Housing

Helen holds a drop-in session at Broseley Library every Monday from 4-6 pm, and on the first Monday of every month she is also at Broseley Youth Club from 7-9 pm.

News from the Kitchen..

We are delighted to welcome back to school Mrs Freeston, our Cook-in-Charge, and her delicious recipes - see below.

In the meantime, Shire Catering Services have informed us that there will be some price rises in the dining room from January 2008 because of the already well-publicised reasons in the national press - i.e. rising fuel prices, poor weather conditions and animal feed prices going up. There will be an increase of up to 5p on some items, e.g. pasta dishes, soup & bread, baked potato and fillings, bread rolls, toast, cereals and sandwiches, dairy products such as yoghurts and milk.

But it's all still yummy!

Christmas Honey Biscuits

- 1 lb. self-raising flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ginger
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon rind
- 6 ozs. butter or margarine
- 7 level teaspoons clear honey

Sieve together dry ingredients and add lemon rind. Melt honey over gentle heat and add to mixture. Knead until it forms a dough, then roll out onto a floured surface. Cut out tree/star/bell shapes and make a hole near the top of each. Bake for 20 minutes at 300°F, gas mark 2.

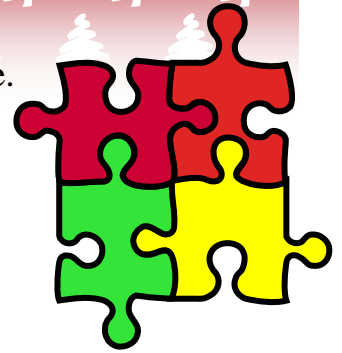


Ice, and hang on your tree with ribbons!



Puzzle Page

Welcome to Mr Brocklehurst's puzzle page.
Warning: these puzzles are not for the faint-hearted!



Competition Time: For your chance to win a £5 book token complete the Sudoku grid below and return to Mr Brocklehurst by Friday 11th January 2008.

Sudoku is the latest craze to sweep the nation. This version has squiggly boxes which each contain 1-9 as do the rows and columns. Confused? Then see me for help.

Sudoku

	2	7			5	1		
	1		6		8	2	3	
							2	
	4	2	8	9	6		7	
1								4
	7		3	2	1	5	4	
	5							
	3	6	1		9		8	
		9	2			7	5	

Mr. Brocklehurst asks:
"Do you think you have a puzzle that can feature in the next edition? Write it down and give me a copy. With the answer of course!!"

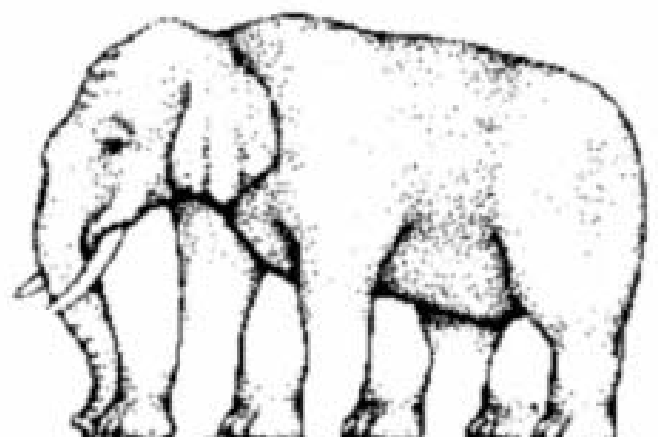
Solutions: Last edition's answers are a little wordy so those of you who want to find out will have to come and see me!

What do the following RE dingbats represent?
Do you think you could make up your own for the next edition? (The best dingbat wins a prize!)



Here is a sample **word ladder puzzle**.
Simply substitute one letter at a time on each rung of the ladder to move from the start word to the end word.

How many legs does the elephant have?





Christmas 2007

"THE EDGE"



WILLIAM BROOKES SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

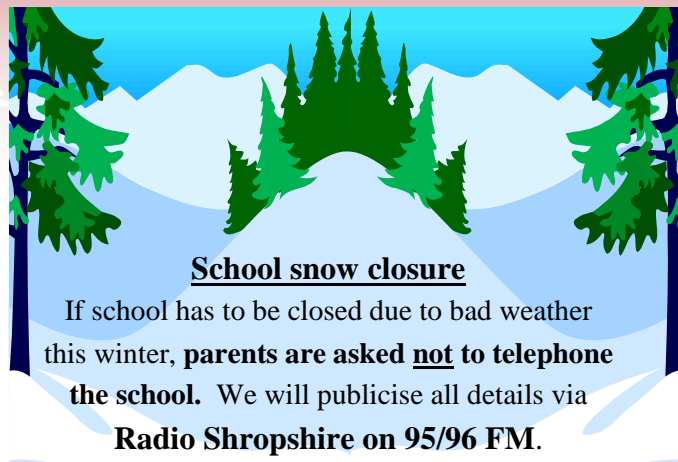
The William Brookes School Newsletter is published four times a year - October, Christmas, Easter and Summer. If you have a comment to make, or would like to contribute an article for a future edition, please contact the editor, Mrs. E. Herdson.

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<http://williambrookes.shropshire.digitalbrain.com>
e-mail: admin@williambrookes.shropshire.sch.uk

And don't forget our Arts Centre site too:
www.edgeartscentre.co.uk



School snow closure

If school has to be closed due to bad weather this winter, **parents are asked not to telephone the school.** We will publicise all details via **Radio Shropshire on 95/96 FM.**

IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE...

Look what's inside this issue...

Children in Need Day - Fun and Fundraising	1
Christmas Message from the Head	2
Staffing News	3
Honours Marks/News from Canada/Trutex	4
Head's Commendations - Congratulations!	5
 FOCUS ON LANGUAGES	6-8
Arts College News	10
Library latest	11
News in brief	12
Health Day	13
PTA/Kitchen News/Recipe/Connexions	14
Mr. Brocklehurst's Puzzle Page	15

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY DATES 2007

Monday 24th December - Friday 4th January inclusive.
Spring Term starts 7th January.

HALF – TERM HOLIDAY DATES

Monday 11th - Friday 15th February inclusive.

EASTER HOLIDAY DATES

Friday 21st March - Friday 4th April inclusive.

Please note the following changes to our previously published information:

Monday 7th January - Presentation Evening for 2006-2007 (postponed from September)

Thursday 17th January - Year 8 Parents' Evening (changed from 10th January)

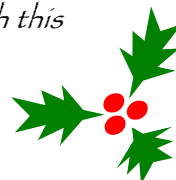
Thursday 24th January - Year 11 Parents' Evening 11th - 15th February =Sixth Form Business Studies visit to New York

Monday 7th April will be a Curriculum Training Day
Tuesday 8th April will be a PD Day

The school will be closed to all students on both these days
Wednesday 9th April: start of the Summer Term



Special thanks to Miss A. Steward and Miss R. Gennard for their editorial assistance with this issue. You are little stars!



Have a heart on Valentine's Day!

The **National Blood Transfusion Service** will be holding their next donor session at William Brookes School on **Thursday, 14th February 2008, 12.45pm to 3.30pm and 4.30pm to 7.30pm.** Ring 0845 7 711 711 for an appointment, or visit their website: www.blood.co.uk

