

## From Bromley Cross to Broadway!

For the fourth year in succession, Turton took a bite out of the Big Apple, with the annual media pilgrimage to New York City. Thirty four sixth form students followed in the footsteps of scores of screen icons as they strolled streets marinated in movie mythology. From our base just off Times Square, the neon heart of the city, we roamed far and wide, taking in landmarks such as the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, and the Dakota Building, scene of John Lennon's fatal encounter with a demented fan ('John Who?' asking several clearly unmoved members of our party).

With representation of the city on screen being one of the areas studied in the A2 examination, the

trip provides a unique and unforgettable experience that can't fail to benefit the students in their studies. The shopping opportunities offered by the likes of Macy's and abetted by a competitive exchange rate don't hurt, either. As usual, Mrs James, virtually a native New Yorker herself by now, led the trip and her knowledge of the city's backstreets means that she could well be applying for her yellow cab licence any day now. The trip was a fantastic success and we look forward to another visit next year.

Ian Bland



## Coursework Catch-Up

A fantastic 186 Year 11 pupils responded to our invitation to come into school over half-term to complete coursework or to revise. The hard-working students clocked up somewhere in the region of 500 hours' work between them over the five days, lured no doubt by the promise of chocolate biscuits for the early birds. A positive working

atmosphere prevailed all week, with many students even asking for repeat study sessions in the future.

As Year 11 enter the final straight of their GCSEs, attention will turn to Year 10 in May and I will be working to ready them for the demands of next year.

Diane Ault  
Academic Learning Mentor

## SATs Entertainment!

When the Easter holidays get under-way next week, a group of Year 9 pupils will still be hard at work as we launch our first Easter Revision School. The forty students, who will be sitting their end of Key Stage 3 tests in the core subjects of English, Maths and Science at the beginning of May, have been selected on the basis that, with a little extra coaching, they can reach a minimum of Level 5 in the tests. This is the level from which students are expected to advance to at least grade C when they sit their GCSEs in two years' time.

Staff from each of the core subjects will deliver lessons on how to tackle the exams, while visiting speakers from the Aim Higher Organisation will tutor the students in revision

techniques. In addition, Maths teacher Mr Jones will be leading a group of twenty five pupils who have Level 8 in their sights, the absolute pinnacle of achievement where SATs are concerned.

## Calling all Year 9 Pupils and Parents!

A reminder that the SATs will take place between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> May. In addition to the three core subjects students will also be sitting an ICT pilot test from the 8<sup>th</sup> May, and pupils will be informed on which date they will be sitting this nearer the time. As the tests approach we would like to remind you that it would be beneficial not to organise any appointments/holidays that might clash with the tests. We would also encourage parents/carers to support their child

## TESCO Vouchers

Tesco are once again running their highly successful 'Computers for Schools' scheme and we need your vouchers! As well as collecting vouchers for doing your shopping, they are also available in exchange for used inkjet cartridges and unwanted mobile phones. So clear out that clunky Nokia that you're no longer willing to be seen with, and help kit us out with some smart new IT gear. Vouchers can be handed to form tutors or deposited in a box in the school foyer. Many thanks in advance.

Ruth Gartland  
Learning Support Dept.



Anna Jagusz & Lisa Boron relax on the slope during the annual 6th Form ski trip to France.

with revision, by helping them to set a revision timetable, and then, more importantly, sticking to it!

A number of web-sites offer excellent on-line revision materials, some of the more useful being:

[www.samlearning.com](http://www.samlearning.com) : Username *bl7th* Password: *dob and initials of first and last name e.g. 020393jg*

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/bitesize)

[www.wpbschoolhouse.btinternet.co.uk](http://www.wpbschoolhouse.btinternet.co.uk) (Science only)

[www.letts-succeszone.com](http://www.letts-succeszone.com)

Good luck to all Year 9 pupils for the exams, and happy studying!

Mrs Lewyckyj  
Deputy Headteacher

## Music News

### A Level Mahler Marathon



Enjoyment and endurance will battle it out when A-Level Music students visit the Bridgewater Hall for a performance of Gustav Mahler's Third Symphony later this month. Clocking in at an epic 90 minutes, the symphony is the longest in the standard classical repertoire, and will feature a 120 strong orchestra, plus a bevy of vocalists and choirs. It could well be a bit of time before our own Junior Orchestra can handle this one.

### t:mac Musos Take Up the Hoover

In February Mr Cargill took over at the helm of the local Bolton Hoover Brass Band, strengthening Turton's grip on the venerable institution. With Mr Chivers already established as baritone, Mr Cargill has wasted no time in bolstering the band's line-up with some of our home-grown musicians. In fact, his initiative has borne immediate fruit, with the band, featuring four Turton students, recently achieving their highest ever placing in the North West area championships. This should see them elevated to the first section for the first time in their history, another triumph for the Turton Music Mafia!



Musicians Chris Atty and David Turner pictured with Mr Cargill

### Junior Concert

The Junior Concert, when the staggering wealth of talent amongst our younger musicians will be given chance to shine, will now be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May, a change to the date previously announced. Tickets will be on sale after Easter direct from the Music Department (£3.50/£2.50).

John Parkinson - Head of Music

## Vile Bodies!



A cannon firing what can only be described as bogies, pressing your nose against some rather unsavoury smells, and sliding yourself down the gullet. These were just three of the 'treats' on offer to Year 7 students when they visited the Grossology exhibition at Manchester's Science and Industry Museum earlier this term. The trip was organised as part of the Learning to Learn programme and gave the students the chance not only to learn about some of the human body's more socially unpleasant functions, but also to consider why such hands-on and inventive exhibits can be so beneficial to the process of learning.

Virtually the entire year group made the trip and all the students enjoyed a fun and educational, if occasionally rather murky smelling, day out.

Ian Bland  
Learning to Learn Co-ordinator

## Read All About It

Monica Ali's prize-winning 'Brick Lane' was the first novel to be put before the recently-formed Sixth form book group set up by Mr Read. The meetings comprise tea and cakes (made to Mr Read's own secret recipe) and a thorough analysis of the chosen text. Although 'Brick Lane' was in many ways a good book to start with, giving an insight into the different cultures residing in Britain, the group feedback wasn't that positive and if it had been us dishing out the prizes it would have been unlikely to have done that well. We're currently looking at 'Children of the Rainbow', and our future plans include theatre trips and meetings with authors, as well as book swaps so that we can share our tastes. One thing we all have a taste for though is Mr Read's cookies...delicious.

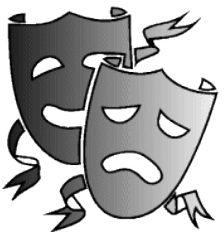
Lucy Higson 12.8

## A Night of Drama

GCSE Drama students paid their own tribute to their much missed group member John Ridehalgh by donating the proceeds from an evening of performances to the charity Asthma UK. More than fifty Year 11 students took part in the evening, which saw them present extracts from a range of playwrights, from the knockabout comedy of John Godber to the kitchen-sink realism of Shelagh Delaney.

The students had prepared the pieces as the culmination of their GCSE course, and all those present in the Arts Theatre on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March were united in agreement that each of the performances represented a superlative crescendo to two years of hard work. While they await the verdict of the examiners, the thunderous acclaim of family and friends, as well as knowledge of the good cause it was in aid of, should provide all the students with satisfaction enough.

Jo Parr  
Head of Drama



## Medical Conference

A group of Year 12 students eager to pursue a career in medicine attended a medical conference at Bolton Hospital to learn more about this demanding profession. As well as talks and a video screening of a knee replacement operation, we participated in a simulation of an emergency situation. In addition to learning about the range of career paths available we were given advice on how to make our University applications stand out from the crowd. This was an enjoyable and highly beneficial day.

Lucy Bowden 12.6

**Hooch & Bench Fashion Show**

There were scenes reminiscent of a London Fashion week scrum for catwalk seats as this sell-out event got underway. Flinch and Funk shifted over £3000 worth of designer clobber, and a fantastic £600 was raised for the PA. Many thanks to all those who helped organise the event and particular thanks to the models who strutted their stuff with such aplomb in spite of being called upon at such short notice.

**Health, Wealth and Beauty Fair for Women 5<sup>th</sup> May 2006 6-9pm**

Beauty might get most of the media attention, but health and wealth are equally important factors in guaranteeing well being. That's why all three share equal billing at this lifestyle event for women. Stalls will offer a myriad of goods and services from fitness to financial advice and fashion to food. And as an added bonus, anyone booking in advance will receive an exclusive goody bag containing vouchers, samples and special offers courtesy of the companies exhibiting. At a mere £3 per ticket, can you really afford to miss out? Tickets are available now from the Finance Office or by calling Deborah Hey on 01204 811357.

**Summer Prize Draw**

We're currently compiling the prize list for the annual Grand Prize Draw, so if you or your company have anything you can offer us, from plate-glass to Plasma screen TVs, then please get in touch.

**Looking Ahead**

The number of opportunities remaining this year to get involved with the PA is fast running out.

Following Tuesday's meeting (4/4 at 7-9pm), only two remain. Please join us if you can:

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June (Parents' Forum at 6.30, PA meeting 7.30 – 9pm)  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July – Social evening

**Contact the PA:**

Deborah - 811357  
or email  
Deborah@hey01.freerve.co.uk  
Lesley - 305011  
Jane - 306771

**Food, Glorious Food?**

The Jamie Oliver Effect is kicking in at Turton with the launch of a working party to investigate how well we're doing on the four key strands of being a Healthy School: Personal, Social and Health Education, Healthy Eating, Physical Activity and Emotional Health and Well Being. We are already working closely with Environmental Services – Catering, and hope to be awarded Healthy Schools accreditation later this year.

A delegation of students from Voices Out Loud has already joined Mrs Smethurst in visits to a number of local secondary schools to observe how they are progressing with the town wide campaign to develop healthier schools and healthier pupils. The pupils will be feeding back, if you'll pardon the unfortunate pun, on their findings in the last week of term.

We are keen to gauge the views of as many people as possible, and if you have ideas on how we can improve our performance in any of the four areas mentioned above, or would like to join the working party, then please contact me directly at school on 01204 333233 or e:mail smethurste@tmac.uk.com

**Liz Smethurst  
Assistant Headteacher**

**Swim to Win!**

Youngsters from around the North West will converge on Turton on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April for a Junior Aquathlon. A Whatthlon? An aquathlon comprises a swim followed immediately by a run. Last year's event saw 120 competitors, and the event's organisers, Bolton Metro Youth Triathlon Club, are eager to recruit students from Turton so that they can beat that number this year.

The event is split between five age groups, with two short course events for novices, and anyone aged between 8 and 16 is eligible to enter. Additionally, there are events for willing parents and teachers. In short, providing you can propel yourself in water and on land, you've no excuse not to take part.

All participants are rewarded with a medal and a goody bag, not to mention a tremendous sense of achievement! Entry forms can be downloaded from the Events section of the club website at www.bolton-metrotriclub.com, and are also available from reception at the Leisure Centre. Anyone seeking further information can contact me directly on 0161 762 9182.

**Stuart Carter  
Race Organiser**

**250 Club Winners**

**Nov**  
1st Howard Masters  
2nd Edna Aspden  
3rd Mrs C J Brooks

**Dec**  
1st Paula Morris  
2nd G. Howarth  
3rd Sue Davies

**Jan**  
1st Claire Allan  
2nd Alison Bailey  
3rd Nicolette Allman

**Feb**  
1st Paula Morris  
2nd Jill Finn  
3rd Trevlin Ong



**Turton High School Media Arts College**

Newsletter  
APRIL 2006



Issue 33



Many different people deserve some public recognition for achievements recorded during this half term.

Those of you who received the Ofsted report of 2003 may remember that it described very good results at Key Stage 5 (the Sixth Form), good results at Key Stage 4 (GCSE examinations) but only satisfactory performance at Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9).

I am delighted to report that the Key Stage 3 national figures published this week show Turton top of the table for Bolton schools in 2005 (we were first equal with Canon Slade on 99.6).

These value-added scores are really important because they don't just measure one group or celebrate the

**Congratulations**

most talented. They reflect the progress made by all students from the point they were at when they joined the school. This reflects great credit on the pupils now in Year 10, the Maths, Science and English departments who taught them and the parents who gave support and encouragement from home. We hope to build on this very real progress with strategies for mentoring, booster classes, Easter revision sessions and other new initiatives you will hear about as we complete this summer's programme of activities to try and beat the 100 mark.

I would also like to express my appreciation of the mature and

generous nature of our current Year 11. There were many nominations for the first John Ridehalgh award which is given to the student, voted for by staff and students, who simply makes t:mac a better place to be. All the nominees would have been worthy winners but the award went deservedly to Matthew Warburton. Each year one student in Year 8 and Year 10 will receive this recognition, every bit as important as any SAT score, GCSE result or sporting accolade. I am grateful to Paul Ridehalgh for giving us this annual tribute to the qualities which make t:mac such a rewarding place to work and learn.

Thank you.

**John Porteous - Headteacher**

**CSI Keswick!**

'Homicide and The Media' and 'First Class: Security and Royal Mail' were just two of the lectures that we attended during a week long Criminology Winter School held at Keswick last term. Meeting leading figures from the field of criminology and discovering exactly what is required to succeed in this most challenging and exciting of careers was a fantastic opportunity, and we are all thankful to have been given this chance.

As well as clarifying our career options and giving us the kind of insight into criminology that no amount of episodes of 'Law and Order' or 'CSI' could hope to match, we enjoyed high-octane social activities such as rock-climbing and abseiling, making this a highly memorable experience.

**Sinead Cassidy 12.1  
Lesley Davies 12.1  
Charlotte Melia 12.5**

**John Ridehalgh Memorial Assembly**



Matthew Warburton of 11S2 became the first winner of the John Ridehalgh Memorial Trophy earlier this term. The award, a means of preserving John's memory by recognising the student who has done most to make Turton a brighter and happier place to be, was presented by John's father Paul during a memorial assembly on March 9<sup>th</sup>, marking the first anniversary of John's death.

Matthew will become the first name engraved on the unique aluminium cube trophy, a replica of which he also gets to keep. Each of the cube's four faces features words and

images designed to celebrate John's life and memory, including the image of a sun wearing sunglasses, a suggestion made by Year 11 students who have fond memories of John sporting shades of his own, as well as words taken from John's books of condolence.

The assembly also saw the presentation of a cheque for £2,500 to Ron Greenhalgh of the charity Asthma UK, the fruit of fund-raising efforts by Year 11 students in John's memory.



**Jan Bazley  
Key Stage 4 Pastoral Leader**