

Parents' Association

Latest News from the PA

Many of you may already be aware of the school's plans to refurbish the Arts Theatre, making it a venue worthy of the fantastic work and performances that go on there. The PA will be supporting this cause through our various fund-raising ventures this year.

Christmas Market: 24/11/06

Some quite atrocious weather wasn't enough to dampen the spirit of those who attended our Christmas Market, which raised in excess of £1000. More than 40 stallholders peddled an array of gifts, from perfumes to paintings, sparing those who attended the need to go into battle on the High Street in the weeks to come.

Fashion Show: Thursday 8/2/07

Make sure that there's something left in

the coffers after Christmas ready for our ever popular 'Hooch and Bench' fashion show. Tickets will go on sale in February, and you owe it to your wardrobe to be there!

PA Meetings:

Don't miss out on the opportunity to have your say in what goes on around school! The meeting schedule for the rest of the academic year runs as follows, and we always welcome new faces:

Tues 6 February: 6.30 Parents' Forum & Governors' AGM; 7.30 PA Meeting
Tues 6 March: 7pm PA Meeting
Tues 1 May: 7pm PA Meeting
Tues 5 June: 6.30 Parents' Forum 7.30 PA Meeting
July: PA Social TBA

Contact the PA:

Email pa@tmac.uk.com; or ring one of the PA committee members:

Deborah on 811357 or Jane on 306771

New Blood from Turton

Turton Sixth-form students queued up in droves as the Blood Donation Service made the first of its two annual visits to the school. Over a third of those eligible to donate did so and representatives of the service were full of praise for the mature and fuss-free manner in which the students went about the business of donating.

Amongst those who volunteered to open a vein were more than fifty brand new donors, and organisers were grateful for this fruitful source of new blood.

Denise Rowley and Pat Mayo National Blood Service



Charlotte Melia pictured donating blood.

250 Club Winners

November

1st M Evans
2nd J Porteous
3rd H Fairclough

December

1st G & F Vickers
2nd H Hardman
3rd J Johnson



An Unfortunate Event

Swap a bright, cheerful book, for a dark and macabre one; that was the offer made to Turton students as part of a book exchange organised to tie-in with the launch of 'The End', the last in Lemony Snicket's grisly 'A Series of Unfortunate Events' series. Turton was one of only ten schools in the UK selected for the exchange and the thirty copies available were snapped up in no time, leaving us with a pile of cheerful old books to donate to the Bolton Literacy Trust.

Judith Sprawling - Librarian



"Emily Williams and Laura Wilson at the swap shop."

Diary Dates

Please note that school will be closed to students on Friday 16th February for a North Bolton Excellence Cluster joint training day (not Monday 26th as printed in the student planner). School will close for the Christmas and New Year break on Thursday 21st December and will reopen on Monday 8th January.

Y11 Mock Interview Scheme

Approximately 180 pupils faced a grilling from a panel of parents and other volunteers, as part of the Mock Interview Scheme. Organised by the Parents' Association and spread over seven evenings in October and November, the scheme offers pupils an invaluable opportunity to brush up their interview technique.

Interviewers were highly impressed with the confidence of the pupils, and the pupils themselves can now look forward to real interviews, free from trepidation.

Many thanks to the interview team who gave up their time and expertise so willingly, and also to the refreshment team of Vanda Hindle, Cheryl Macaulay and Sue Masters.

Diane Ault & Penny Elger Parents' Association

Target Setting Day

Target Setting Day proved once again to be an invaluable opportunity for all students to reflect on their progress over the year so far. All parents should have received a copy of the data collated for the day and we appreciate your help in supporting students to meet the targets they have set for themselves. We would also appreciate your suggestions for improving the target setting experience from a parents' perspective.

In a twist to the usual format of the day, Year 7 students remained in school and took part in a cross-curricular project on the burning hot issue of the moment, climate change. The students undertook various activities, including an Internet quiz to map out their ecological footprint, and most pupils were startled to learn just what an impact their lifestyle could have on the future of the planet.

D Walsh - KS3 Student Achievement Co-ordinator

Healthy Lifestyles

As part of our commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles we are studying issues surrounding travel to and from school. We are eager to hear your thoughts on how traffic and congestion around school impacts on the local community and suggestions as to how, with the promotion of healthy lifestyles in mind, we could work together to improve this situation. Please contact me at school on 01204 333233 or e:mail smethurst.e@tmac.uk.com

Liz Smethurst Assistant Headteacher, Community

Bromley Cross to Broadway!

On a dreary Thursday morning before half-term we left Turton bound, for the bright lights of New York City! First stop on our whirlwind tour of the Big Apple was the Empire State Building, and over the next three days Miss Parry and her trusty map guided us to all the sights from Madison Square Gardens to Macy's, and we even watched a Broadway performance of the Lion King.

But dancing was the real business of the trip and our three workshops on Broadway were a memorable experience, where we all got to live out our fantasies of 'Fame'. It looked as though the whole trip would run without a single hiccup, but step forward Charlotte Howard, who somehow managed to mislay her passport between getting on and getting off the coach. Luckily, Miss Strickleton came to the rescue, bringing a happy ending to what was undoubtedly the trip of a lifetime.

Rachel Costello - Head of Dance



Dance Club Reminders:

Monday: Year 7 - 9 Girls 3 - 4:15 pm
Wednesday: Year 9 - 11 Girls 3 - 4:15 pm
Thursday: Boys 3 - 4:15 pm

Henna Party!

The RE Department became a temporary tattoo parlour for a week in October as we celebrated the coming of Divali and Eid by offering students the chance to be adorned with henna tattoos. The distinctive, highly intricate designs are traditionally worn by female followers of the Hindu and Muslim faiths at times of celebration, and pupils leapt at the chance to develop their understanding of the rituals of different faiths.

Pupils were full of praise and enthusiasm for this novel way of engaging with religions, and in the process £53.00 was raised for school funds thanks to contributions from those on whom knowledge of the festivals is now etched, not just on the hands and arms, but on the brain.

Farzana Hafeji - RE Department



Members of 7S4 prepare to send aid and gift packages to Eastern Europe as part of 'Operation Christmas Child'.

VOL on Tour!

15 members of Voices Out Loud!, the School Council body, travelled to London at the end of October for an action-packed, yet highly educational three-day tour of the capital. The main attraction of the trip was a visit to the Houses of Parliament, where we met MP for Chorley, Lindsay Hoyle, who kindly took time out of his busy schedule to answer our questions about parliament and politics.

We took in many of the top tourist attractions, including the amazing London Eye, which offered us spectacular views of the whole city, and had a frightful time at the very spooky London Dungeons.

Before the trip we worked together to raise £900 to fund it, doing everything from selling cakes to packing bags at Sainsbury's, and knowing that we had raised the cash and planned many aspects of the trip ourselves, even down to planning Tube routes, made it an even more memorable experience. Many thanks to Mrs Lewyckyj and Mr Hilton for leading the trip and if it happens again next year, I definitely recommend it to new VOL members.

Katy Clayton 8S3

The Ones to Watch!

Six Year 10 students were the first to benefit from Turton's recently announced partnership with the BBC as they spent three days at the corporation's Manchester HQ earlier this term. The students all received intensive training in media skills as a prelude to producing a short film, assisted and supported by the BBC. In July, when production is complete, the students will travel to London where they will submit their films to the scrutiny of media professionals. This is a fantastic opportunity for the students who are already wedging a foot in the door of a highly competitive industry.

Jane Sweetlove - AST Media Teacher

Christmas Concert - 14/12



One of the essential rituals of the festive season took place in the Arts Theatre last Thursday evening as the full roster of department ensembles gave a musical celebration of Christmas. As ever it was an amazing demonstration of the depth and quality of musicianship that the school can boast, and if you've visited the Arts Theatre since you might still catch the echo of the rapturous applause from the suitably wowed audience.

Lusanda in Uganda!

Big Band tenor sax player Lusanda Donnelly of Year 13 is hoping to spend next year doing voluntary work in Uganda, and has leaned on her band-mates enough to ensure that they pitch in with her efforts to raise the money necessary to fund her mission. The threat of Lusanda playing behind the beat for the whole of 2007 was all the persuasion it needed to get them to agree to a fundraising evening featuring both of the school's Big Bands and a special guest vocalist. The event will be held on Friday 26th January at Barlow Institute, Edgworth, and tickets are available now from the Music Department. Good luck Lusanda!

John Parkinson - Head of Music

Aiming High!

Wednesday November 1st saw the Aim Higher Roadshow roll into Turton for the benefit of 50 Year 9 pupils. With options looming on the horizon, the purpose of the roadshow was to motivate students by raising awareness of the possibilities opened up by going to university. Representatives of the Aim Higher organisation were impressed by the enthusiasm and attitude of the pupils, describing them as a credit to the school.

Simon Braithwaite Year 9 Pastoral Leader



Successful students together with John Porteous and guest of honour, Paul Ridehalgh, at the recent GCSE Presentation Evening.

more fixtures on the horizon, let's hope the cracking form continues.

Hoop It Up!



Year 8 are in commanding form on the basketball court, having advanced to the next round of the cup where they will face Sharples. Other year groups will be hoping to follow their lead in the coming weeks as the cup fixtures pile up. Turton has also been chosen to host the Year 7 Lancashire Cup rally early next year.

Try and Try Again...



It was a case of breaking even for the combined Year 10 and 11 Rugby team when they participated in their first competition of the season at Bolton Rugby Club, winning two and losing two of their games. The omens were good after a successful challenge match against Westhoughton, and the team deserved commending for their determination over the course of a gruelling day.

Net Gains...

Year 7, 8, and 11 netball sides all won through to the next stages of the Cup, with Year 8 notching up a resounding 16-1 win over Westhoughton. The Year 7's have been going through their paces in a number of friendly matches and are shaping up well.

Tee Time...



Turton entered three teams in the Lancashire Golf Knock-Out Tournament which got underway this month. The A-Team, consisting of Anthony and Ian Stirling and Matthew German, triumphed over Arnold School. The B and C teams lost out to QEGS, Blackburn and St. Aelreds, Warrington respectively, but the members of each team – John Whipp, Seb Bennison, Nick Stone, Matthew Scholes, Chris Holland and Ben Ault – acquitted themselves well during their games.

Holding Court...



If it's Wednesday then it must be Badminton Club! Anyone wishing to play should come along, and we'd be especially happy to see more female players. Meanwhile the boys' league is up and running and a fixture list can be found on the board in the Gym corridor.

Karate Kids...



Fancy learning the art of karate from the man who recently finished fifth in the Karate World Championships in Japan? Fresh from demolishing opponents from around the globe, Sensei Kevin Clark will join Joe Mullin in the gym every Monday after school, an opportunity definitely not to be missed.

The Only Gaelic in the Village...

PE's Dan McElroy is currently touring Primary Schools introducing his native sport of Gaelic Football, prior to a Primary Schools' festival that will take place next April.

Gym'll Fix It...



Unleash your inner Nadia Comaneci by joining Gymnastics Club, which will be starting up in January under the watchful eye of Miss Jackson.

Making a Splash...



A reminder that swimming club now takes place on Tuesday and Thursday, with the Tuesday session intended for advanced competitors.

Looking Ahead...

Having looked back, it's time to set our sights on the future! In January Year 10 pupils will get the chance to try their hand – and feet – at Thai boxing, while Year 7's will don their pom-poms as they high-kick into cheerleading. Give us a T...

Chris Mullin
Head of PE

Turton High School Media Arts College

Newsletter

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Relaxation and Resolution



As the long Autumn term draws to a close, both staff and students must be in need of a well-earned rest. From the new Year 7 pupils who have completed an excellent first term, through to Year 11 working through a week of Mock exams or the Sixth Form preparing for January modules, everyone needs a little relaxation and recuperation.

Certainly the staff team at t:mac have never worked harder and many parents have expressed their gratitude to colleagues for their attendance at recent events which is much appreciated.

After the holiday we will each be drawing up our resolutions for the new year. For us, priorities include completing the refurbishment of the main school, raising money for future improvements, encouraging emotional maturity and understanding, and raising achievement levels even higher.

As students reflect on their own individual priorities and targets, I hope sport, music, travel, drama and other interests will feature alongside the hard work in school. However, most of all, I hope kindness, friendship and

compassion will be among many people's resolutions.

We are very proud of the way students look after each other as prefects, mentors, mediators and within tutor groups and Year teams. This is what makes t:mac such a rewarding place in which to study and work. This is what helps us to face up to our challenges and overcome our problems.

We wish you and your families an enjoyable holiday and every success in 2007.

John Porteous - Headteacher

Kids' Lit. Quiz

There was much more than just the prospect of a trip to New Zealand at stake when Turton fielded two teams in the North West heats of the Kids' Lit. Quiz on November 21st, there was also a small matter of revenge. Last year, our team of book-loving Year 7 and 8's saw the dream of a trip down under scuppered as they were edged out of the top three on a tie-break by Canon Slade. Would history dare repeat itself?

Leaving nothing to chance, preparations for this year's competition began months ago, and the cream of Year 7 and 8 have been battling in the library every Friday night for a coveted spot in the team. When Anne Smallwood from the School Library Service visited to give students a practice with the 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire?' style 'Fastest Finger' gizmos – otherwise known as Kinaesthetic Interactive Teaching aids - the library was a

blur of racing fingers, with even the most taxing of questions swatted away with ease. Could Canon Slade, or indeed any of the other schools who descended on Bolton University from as far afield as Cheshire and Cumbria, prove a match for this?

Of course they couldn't. With a taste for drama as impeccable as their knowledge of children's literature, our team of Hannah King, Dean McDermott, Bethany Hodgkiss, and Cameron Smith, booked their place in the National Finals in Newcastle, winning the competition by a single point. The team in second place? Why, none other than Canon Slade. An excellent performance for the North Bolton Cluster

Congratulations to our winning side, but also to our second team and reserves, and to all those who joined in the fun over the last few months. Thanks must also go to Multi Media Machines, the local company responsible for

manufacturing the nifty KIT gadgets, who have contributed £250 to cover the cost of transport to the national finals.

Judith Sprawling - Librarian



Hannah King, Cameron Smith, Dean McDermott, Bethany Hodgkiss and Wayne Mills (Kids' Lit. Quiz question master).



John Blackburn from Multi Media Machines presenting a cheque for £250 to the team to cover transport to the national finals.