

## Book Buddies!

They say that you can lead a boy to books, but you can't make him read. Well, in an effort to disprove this, we've teamed up with Eagley Juniors for a project that provides junior readers with positive role models who will offer advice and encouragement, and make the point that being seen with a book needn't necessarily damage your playground cred.

Six Year 8's and 7 Year 9's have been selected as our literary ambassadors and they've already held some very productive sessions with 12 Year 4 boys, with more meetings scheduled next term. It's an exciting initiative and one that we hope will go some way to undoing the perception that lads and literature are incompatible.

**Clare Frackelton**  
Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator

## New Blood!

The Blood Transfusion Service made their second visit of the year to Turton at the end of March, once again overflowing with praise for the conduct of the Sixth Form Students who hopped on a gurney and hooked themselves up to the drip. This year's two visits saw 83 students donate for the first time, continuing to make Turton a reliable source in the constant battle to keep blood supplies topped up.

**Andy Mills**  
Director of Sixth Form



## Macbeth

180 Year 8 pupils visited the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds, to watch a performance of Shakespeare's classic Macbeth. Having studied the play in class we all knew the story well, but all that theeing and thouing did make it a little hard to follow at times. That said, the play was fun and exciting to watch

and the quality of acting was brilliant.

After the performance we were asked to act out scenes from the play outside the theatre, and the sight of several mini-Macbeths and Macduffs battling it out on the streets must have been strange for any passers-by. The trip was a huge success and we all enjoyed it very much.

**Anna Bolton 8S1**

## The Real Apprentices!

Last December a crack squad of business masterminds – and Richard Martin – from Year 13, enrolled in a business simulation game organised by Lancaster University. For two months myself, Peter Nuttall, Jay Roberts, Scott Wiseman, as well as the aforementioned Mr Martin, did plenty of virtual wheeling and dealing, competing against colleges from across the country to make the highest profit. Our mobile phone enterprise saw us top our league by a massive £40 Million margin, earning us a place at the final in Lancaster.

With Mrs Canning at the wheel, and Mrs Jones by her side to navigate, the Good Ship Turton (actually in this case a minibus), set sail for Lancaster. After a lengthy discussion, Richard Martin decided that the A6 would be the best route; bad call.

Once we eventually arrived, the simulation for the day called on us to run a wine bar, competing against four other teams, making decisions about marketing and finance. Throughout the day we worked as a team and learnt many valuable lessons; one being don't go down the A6 at 9:00am!

The whole team would like to express our thanks to Mrs Canning and Mrs Jones for their help and support on the day and before. In the end, we were just beaten into second place by a mere £30, each receiving a cut of the £300 prize money for our efforts. However it is the skills we learned about business and teamwork that will remain with us for life.

**James Sharp 13.5**



Mrs Jones, Jay Roberts, James Sharp, Scott Wiseman, Peter Nuttall, Richard Martin, Mrs Canning

## t:mac Media on Manoeuvres

It was a case of lights, camera and action on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> March as Mrs James and a small group of Year 11 Media Students travelled to the Specialist Schools Annual Arts Conference in Harrogate. Accompanied by media technician Mr Moore and sixth-form student Sean Bennett, our task was to spend two days roaming the conference shooting footage of workshops and performances to be compiled into a two minute film. Once edited, the film will be uploaded to the internet.

The trip was a hugely enjoyable, yet very tiring, foray into the world of a film crew, and all the pupils involved gained invaluable experience that should benefit them immensely as they continue their Media Studies in the sixth-form.

**Alistair Mooney 11S1**

## Box Not Bin!

Turton has taken a giant stride towards a greener future with the arrival of green recycling boxes in every form room.

The boxes are already proving a great success with students as they begin to pile up with cans, bottles and other recyclable materials that would previously have had no chance of an environmentally friendly afterlife.

In addition, pupils are also being given the chance to recycle unwanted mobile phones, which can be exchanged for raffle tickets offering generous prizes for students and the school, making it a win-win proposition for all concerned.

The long-term intention is to reduce the size of our carbon footprint from its current Size 12 to something a little more petite, in the process hopefully attaining ECO Status for the school in recognition of our efforts in the near future.

**Year 11 VOL Members**



As we welcome summer and prepare to rummage at the back of the storeroom for javelins, hurdles, cricket and rounders bats, it's time to look back on a sporting winter that brought unprecedented success...

## Football: Three's The Magic Number!

Where Manchester United failed, Turton succeeded, clinching three major trophies in a season. Yeas 7, 8 and 10 all romped to glory in the Bolton School Championships, with the invincible Year 7 and 8 going the entire season undefeated. Many thanks to all the parents, pupils and staff who supported the teams' endeavours, and here's to a clean sweep across all five year groups next season. In addition many thanks to Pickering and Molloy and Building Services Partnership for sponsoring the Year 8 and Year 11 kits.

## Basketball: Slam Dunked!

It looked as though Year 7 would be joining Year 8 and 9 in their respective Bolton Schools finals, until a last minute Ladybridge shot arced through the air and into the hoop. Year 8 faced the old foe Canon Slade in their final, rallying after a poor opening to push their opponents all the way, but narrowly losing out in a final for the second time this season. There was similar disappointment for Year 9 who also lost to the arch-foe from down the road.

## Gaelic Football Festival

May 1<sup>st</sup> saw the first ever Gaelic Football Primary Schools Festival in Bolton. Throughout the year Mr McElroy has toured local primaries introducing his native game, and six teams responded to the challenge and played in the tournament hosted here at

## Textiles Revision Day



The TIC Centre played host to a Textiles revision day on the 30<sup>th</sup> April attended by pupils and staff from Turton High School, Canon Slade and Sharples.

Guest speakers from industry and schools delivered lectures and seminars, while pupils gave presentations and participated in workshops.

It was a superb day, and the students really benefited from the change of scene.

**Sarah Murphy - Textiles**

# PE News

## Wrestle Mania!

Josh Ramm, Lee Brickles and Oliver Brandwood, took their places on the podium after standing firm in their respective categories at the recent English Wrestling Championships. Josh became English Champion in the 83 Kg class, while Lee took the silver in the 72 Kg class. Year 7's Oliver Brandwood, who is already the Scottish Champion, took silver this side of the border. Congratulations to all three, and we will see wrestling return to the curriculum next term, so get your leotards ready ladies and gents!

## G&T at the Theatre of Dreams!

Where could be a more appropriate destination for a trip rewarding Turton's own sporting talents, than the Theatre of Dreams itself, Old Trafford? It was a memorable day for all, particularly Mr McElroy who was chuffed to bits when he bumped into the saviour of Irish football himself, Jack Charlton. Mrs Costello pulled the strings behind the scenes to make the trip happen, and we'd like to thank her for hard work and also wish her well on her maternity leave.

## Spring into Action...

Athletics Practices are held on Tuesday and Thursday after school. With competitions due to commence this month we are hoping for a summer full of silverware. Cricket and rounders fixtures are also now underway; see the notice board for more details.

Karate Club is still going strong and Boxing Club has proved to be – what else could it be? - a big hit. On a final note, we wish the Year 11 GCSE PE group every success in their forthcoming exams. It's been a blast!

**Chris Mullin - Head of PE**

## Katy Shines with Shane!

No sooner has Year 8 student Katy Clayton finished her impressive run in Buggy Malone, than she's popping up on the nation's TV screens. Katy starred alongside Shane Ritchie in ITV's drama 'The Good Samaritan' last week, an experience she described as 'fantastic!'.

This wasn't Katy's first TV appearance, in fact she's already a veteran of numerous TV shows, and she's keen to pursue her acting career in the future.

**Ian Bland**

## Small Change Makes a Big Change



The old adage 'pennies make pounds' might not mean much to many pupils judging by the amount of pennies to be found discarded on the dining tables and dining room floors.

Three generous donations have already been forwarded to Derian House as a result of all the small change scooped up in recent months. In view of the invaluable service that Derian House provides for children with serious illnesses, it's a big thank you to all our students for the 'tips left after dining'.

### Lunchtime Supervisors

## Leaders of the Pack!

What makes a great leader? Confidence? Charisma? Or maybe the willingness to give up three days of your Easter holidays? That was the issue at stake for 12 Year 7, 8 & 10 pupils as they attended a course devoted to the art of leadership between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April. During the three days we got to know students from other local schools as we tackled role-playing games and discovered what skill and qualities successful leadership demands. It was a really enjoyable experience and the lessons we learned are sure to stay with us for a very long time, and if Sammy Lee, or Gordon Brown for that matter, need any tips in the coming months, they know just where to find us.

### Danny Slater – 8T4



## Samba Sensations!

Any of the 16 Year 7 - 9 boys who participated in a street and hip-hop dance workshop on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April that thought they were in for an easy time, were in a very rude awakening as they were put through their paces by professional Brazilian dance artist Joao Pedro. The boys agreed that this throwing shapes lark can be pretty gruelling, but all found the experience immensely rewarding.

You can view their routines for yourselves when they make a special appearance at this year's dance show, which will be held in the Arts Theatre on June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. With the work already being put in – by boys and girls – it promises to be a very special show and we hope to see as many of you there as possible.

### Nicola Gregson – Dance Department



## Coursework Caught-Up!

As the final grains slip to the bottom of the hourglass measuring their time at Turton, Year 11's made one last tilt towards success as they packed out coursework catch-up sessions during February half-term. 162 pupils were counted through the doors, eager to apply one final layer of polish to their coursework, before the moderators finally got their mitts on it. English, PE and Maths, topped the chart for 'most popular' subjects.

With many deadlines having already disappeared into the middle-distance Easter saw less traffic through C6, but a few students, playing a daring game of chicken with the deadlines, were around to ensure they didn't lose. Attention now turns to Year 10 and the first support sessions for those keen to go into Year 11 with no outstanding coursework concerns should head for C6 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July and B12 on August 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Diane Ault**  
Academic Learning Mentor

## Parents' Association News

### Summer Prize Draw – Will you be a Wii-ner?

We promised spectacular prizes for our Summer Draw and we haven't let you down! First prize is a much sought after Nintendo Wii console, meaning you can spare yourself the indignity of scrapping over the one that Dixons will get in stock this year, and own one for next to nothing. Second prize, courtesy of Lloyds Bank, is £200 while other prizes include two months gym membership, meals and days out, as well as the chance to unleash your inner WAG with a case of Veuve Cliquot champagne.

Books of tickets will be distributed to all students, and we hope that you will all be able to support us by selling at least one book of five tickets. Please return your completed stubs and money as well as any unwanted tickets to the Finance Office. More tickets are available from the Finance Office – just ask.

### Help – auditors needed

We need 2 auditors to audit our books – a very simple and straight forward task. If you can help or know anyone else who can please let us know.

### Future Events

Our plans for the future include a repeat of our successful Christmas Market, and a September welcome to new parents at school. If you're interested in finding out more about what we do and sharing your ideas for the future come along to our last meeting on Tuesday 5 June at 7.30pm, following the Parents' Forum.

### Contact the PA:

Email [pa@tmac.uk.com](mailto:pa@tmac.uk.com); or ring one of the PA committee members:

Deborah on 811357  
Jane on 306771

## 250 Club Winners

### May

1st A Stones  
2nd D Meakin  
3rd H Hardman

# Turton High School Media Arts College



Issue 40



## Health Cheque for t:mac!

On the 19<sup>th</sup> April we joined Mrs Smethurst, Miss Martland and Miss Outterside at the Reebok Stadium's Lion of Vienna Suite for the presentation of a Healthy Schools Award for Turton.

The presentation was the culmination of a lengthy process that has involved parents, governors, students and Healthy Schools representatives, working together to assess our strengths and weaknesses in the area of healthy lifestyles, and to produce an action plan identifying ways in which we can promote issues of health throughout the school, from the canteen to the curriculum.

Following a healthy lunch and a range of activities including tai chi and food tasting, the Mayor and Mayoress of Bolton presented the Healthy Schools plaque to Turton as well as a number of other local schools. We returned not only with a plaque, a certificate and the right to proudly call ourselves a Healthy school, but also the sum of £1500 to spend promoting healthy lifestyles in school this year.

**Tasmyn Tonge 7S1**  
**Rebecca Bond 10T3**



## All of the people, all of the time?

Many thanks to you for such an overwhelmingly positive response to the parental questionnaires sent out by the Ofsted inspection team. The lead inspector could not remember seeing such positive returns (96% of the total). However, that must mean that 4% of parents were not happy with some aspect of school life, so I would urge those parents to get in touch and let us try and help. The problem with inspections is that they let us know what people think but not who thinks it, so we have no way of responding to individual concerns!

We know we have an improving school but we don't think we're perfect by any means. We have detailed plans for 2007-2010 to develop emotional intelligence and resilience with staff and students, to review the Year 7-9 curriculum, to extend the range of learning opportunities at 14-19 and to promote sustainability in all that we do.

VOL (Student Voice) tell me they are determined to make t:mac an eco-friendly school and we will support them 100% in that aim. They will also be involved in the curriculum review; they will be testing our ideas for making lessons more enjoyable and more engaging in Key Stage 3, as well as supporting us in changing the behaviour of the few individuals who can spoil things for other people in school.

We are delighted that Ofsted have confirmed all the previous verdicts from ALPs and the new national college assessment system (LAT), saying that our Sixth Form is outstanding. Congratulations to all of the students, present and past, whose tremendous achievements are celebrated by this report and many thanks to the expert staff and supportive families who have helped them to reach such high standards.

We should also recognise the superb achievements of our sports teams this year who have recorded individual and team triumphs in football, cycling, wrestling and other sports.

The Healthy Schools group have done us proud in securing the School Travel Plan and Healthy Schools Award through their work with staff, governors and parents.

Finally, congratulations to everyone involved in Buggy Malone. It summed up everything that Ofsted said. You will get out of Turton what you put into it. Buggy was a classic case of talented and enthusiastic students working with passionate and dedicated staff, supported by encouraging parents. Most of all, they performed with a smile on their faces which transferred to the audience every night. Well done to all involved.

**John Porteous - Headteacher**

## Bugsy Malone

Five nights of splat and splurge reached a finale on May 4<sup>th</sup> as the school's production of Buggy Malone came to a triumphant end. The show was a resounding success, so much so that we're already able to forget the frayed nerves as opening night approached and make plans for next year's follow-up.

It was an exhausting week for cast and crew, but the hard work paid off with the audiences going wild every night. Now it's time for a short breather before we start the whole process again...

**Jeanette Bimpson - Drama Department**



NEWSLETTER MAY 2007