

December 2009

Dear Parents and Carers,

WINTER TERM NEWSLETTER 2009

As we approach the end of term I am pleased to send you our latest newsletter.

Year 7 and 8 Carol Service

This will take place on Friday 11th December at 2.00pm at St Peter's Church. Students in these years will be dismissed from the church at approximately 2.50pm and allowed to go home from there. All parents and friends of the school are very welcome to join us on this special occasion.

On this day only lunchtime for Years 7 and 8 will begin at 12.45pm and end at 1.20pm. Students who normally go home for a supervised lunch should return in good time. Alternatively, they can stay at school for either a packed or a school lunch.

Parent Governor

The four year term of office of one of our parent governors, Mrs C West, expires on 30th January 2010, though she remains eligible for re-election. I attach a nomination form for any parent of a child currently at this school who would like to stand for election as a Parent Governor. These forms must be returned to me by 3.00pm on Friday 18th December 2009. In the event of there being more than one nomination, an election will be held at the beginning of next term.

If any interested parent would like an informal conversation with me about the role of governor, please contact me at school.

Entry to the Sixth Form

We are now at the time of year when Year 11 students are starting to think carefully about their future. Our Post 16 Centre provides a range of excellent opportunities for our students. If you have not received a prospectus or would like some informal advice on the pathways which are open to young people for further study after GCSE, please contact Mrs Deer, Head of Sixth Form after the Christmas break.

Year 11 Mock Exam Results

Year 11 students will receive their results on the first day of the Spring Term in the same way that they will eventually receive the real results in the summer.

Fund Raising

During our last fund raising event for the Tickled Pink campaign we raised a magnificent £859.14. We will be holding a fund raising event on the last day of term again. Details will be sent home with the students as soon as the School Council has decided the charity and events which will take place.

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Emergency School Closures

In the event of an emergency closure, for example because of bad weather or heating failure, as in previous years we shall place a recorded message on the school telephone, as well as informing local radio. Please note that it may take some time before any notice is broadcast and a message can be placed on the school telephone, depending on the nature of the emergency. In addition we have introduced a new system that allows us to send text and email messages to parents and will utilise the text service to inform parents about emergency closures. Please see the specific item relating to this service below and ensure that we have your up to date mobile phone and email details so that we can ensure that we are able to contact you.

The Staffordshire County Council website will also carry information about school closures at <http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/schoolsandcolleges/emergencyclosures/>

Text and Email Messaging Service.

Earlier this term we introduced a system that enables us to send text and email messages to parents. We hope that you will find this service a helpful addition to the existing home school communication methods. We are now able to text all parents with urgent notifications such as emergency closure and can keep you more regularly informed about events such as parents' evenings. Please contact us to confirm your email and mobile phone details are correct alternatively complete the form at the end of this letter and return to the office as soon as possible.

Notify us by our text message service SMS of Student Absence

Another feature of the text and email system is that it allows parents to inform us of a student's absence from school by text message. We will only accept this notification method if the originating text message number is registered on the school system to the appropriate parent so if you might wish to use this service, please make sure that you have informed us of your mobile number beforehand. **If we have your mobile number already, the text number for school is 07717 989975. Please note that this is an SMS text only service, calls to this number cannot be answered and voicemail messages are not forwarded to school.**

Moon Landings at Paulet High School

As part of the International Year of Astronomy celebrations, we were lucky enough to have moon dust and meteorites land in school this month! All years were invited to come and have a look as well as Year 6 students from Edgehill Junior School.

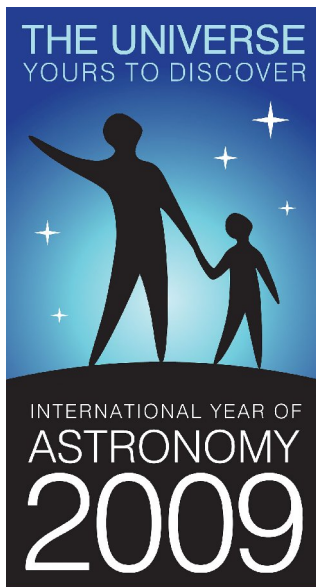
The moon rock, collected during Apollo Moon Landing missions, was taken from different sites all over the moon. Students were able to view the moon dust under microscopes and see lots of psychedelic colours from the different minerals they contained. The students were also able to use computer software to measure the size of different moon craters.

Meteorites that had landed on Earth from outer space were also available to examine. They were rich in iron and nickel or were stony in their make up. Students tested the meteorites with magnets to see if they contained magnetic metals.

As part of the "School's Autumn Moonwatch" programme, Stanton Primary School students were able to use our telescopes to observe the moon's craters as well as Jupiter and its moons.

This was a great opportunity and was enjoyed by everyone taking part. A huge thank you to Mr Hill for all his efforts in organising and leading the activities!

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Cycling to School

We are very keen to encourage students to come to school on their bikes and we provide a secure cycle shelter. However, it is a requirement that the bikes are roadworthy. We will ban anyone with a dangerous bike, for example one without proper functioning brakes. We would also like to encourage students to wear cycle helmets - the staff who cycle to school certainly do – as it only takes one bad fall to cause serious damage to a student.

Dragons' Den Activity

Year 7 welcomed the Speakeasy team into school in November to present a challenge of creating their own business and presenting their ideas to a panel of Dragons. The students worked in small groups to create a range of exciting ideas and projects. The students spent a most enjoyable day and the following email was received from the Dragons' Team Leader: "Each team produced some fantastic work, they worked with real passion and dedication, they were a real joy to work with. A big thank you to all the teaching team at Paulet High School for their help and support throughout the day." Well done, everyone!

Sports News

- Last year's Year 7 students took part in the successful attempt to break the Skipping World Record on 30th June.
- So far this term our Sports Leaders have helped to run a very successful High 5s Netball and an Indoor Athletics festival for the local primary schools. Pupils from River View, Edge Hill, Tower View, Winshill, Holy Rosary, Holy Trinity and St. Modwen's met at Paulet Sports Hall for the events.
- Students from all years have been involved in boys' and girls' football, netball and rugby fixtures.
- Football successes: The Year 11 boys' football team is currently undefeated in the league and has reached the semi-final in the flood-lit cup. The Year 9 boys are also through to the semi-final of the flood-lit cup. Year 7 students are currently undefeated in the league.
- The activities that the PE department is offering as clubs next term are basketball, badminton, trampolining, netball, football, rugby, dance and dodgeball.
- Year 11 student Matthew Bowley has been selected to attend a National Talent Orientation Camp at Loughborough University in January for his commitment and success in Canoeing. We wish him all the best with this!

School Website

The school website www.paulet.staffs.sch.uk provides up to date information, job vacancies and newsletters, as well as a range of school policies. Please have a look. If you would like copies of any of our policies, please let us know.

Summer 2009 Examination results

The league tables for these will be published shortly. We were generally very pleased with the results, though we remain committed to further improvement.

- The 5A*-C pass rate was 67%, which was the best ever with an improvement on last year of 10%
- The figure including English and Maths was 34%, a 4% increase on last year.
- For the second year running every student left the school with a GCSE qualification.
- The Contextual Value added score was 1006.9. If a school scores above 1000 this means that the students have made better progress than expected, given their different starting points.

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Free Computers and Internet Access

I would like to give you advance notice of a Government scheme which we understand will give free computers and internet access to families registered for free school meals. Further details will be available in the media in the New Year and I would advise parents to be on the lookout for this. We have no further details at school at this stage.

Healthy School Award

Following the success of the school achieving healthy school status in the summer term, Mrs Cooper, Healthy Schools Co-ordinator, Mr Whibley and two Year 10 students were invited to the County Buildings in Stafford in November to be presented with a certificate and plaque in recognition of our achievement. Chelsea Butcher and Katie Liddane had to tell other schools from Staffordshire about changes and events that have taken place over the last two years for us to become a healthy school. They mentioned in particular the success of the new eating environment in the atrium and the outside area along with the promotion of the Paulet water bottles.

Healthy schools status is awarded to those schools which successfully address the following criteria

- The promotion of a healthy eating culture throughout the school
- The promotion of regular exercise/physical activity.
- Education re drugs, alcohol, volatile substance abuse etc
- Emotional health and well being of pupils and staff.

The school will now be working on further ways to develop and promote being healthy.

School Calendar

Tuesday	8 December	Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening
Friday	11 December	Y7 & Y8 School Carol Service at St Peters' Church – 2.00 pm
Friday	11 December	Y12/13 Reports issued
Friday	18 December	End of Term – School closes for Christmas Holiday
Monday	4 January	School re-opens
Monday	4 January	Year 11 mock results day
Wednesday	6 January	Community Governors' Meeting – 4.00 pm
Friday	8 January	Y8 Reports issued
Tuesday	12 January	Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening
Wednesday	20 January	FASCOM Governors' Meeting - 6.00 pm
Mon – Fri	15 February – 19 February	Half Term Holiday
Friday	26 February	Governors' Premises Meeting – 9.00 am
Wednesday	3 March	FASCOM Governors' Meeting – 6.00 pm
Friday	5 March	Year 9 Reports issued
Tuesday	16 March	Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening
Tuesday	23 March	Year 9 Pathways' Evening
Tuesday	30 March	6 th Form Parents' Evening
Thursday	1 April	Year 11 Reports issued
Thursday	1 April	School closes for Easter Holiday

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School Uniform - Footwear

I have been incredibly proud and extremely pleased with how smart our students have been during this last term. For clarity, however, I would like to take this opportunity to remind all students of the following with regards to footwear. Black canvas shoes should no longer be worn. Students should all, from after Christmas, be in conventional black school footwear. This means plain black shoes without a logo. We do not allow boots to be worn nor do we allow black trainers or trainer style shoes. As always, if students break the uniform code we will take action according to our Behaviour for Learning policy. Students will be invited to wear plain black canvas pumps again after the Easter holidays during the summer months when the weather becomes more suitable.

End of Term Arrangements

We shall follow our usual Christmas procedures. School will close at 12.15pm on Friday 18th December to allow a staff meeting to take place. Lessons will operate normally until this time. Lunch will be available as normal for any student requiring it, including students entitled to a free school meal. However, students must inform the Dining Room Cashier, by the day beforehand if they want a meal. If you wish your child to be supervised on the school premises until the normal time of 2.50pm, please let me know and I shall be happy to arrange this.

School will begin again at 8.30am Monday 4th January 2010.

I wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and a safe and peaceful New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Alexander Timms
Headteacher

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UPDATED TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Date:

Pupil's Name:

Form:

Contract Name:

Old Telephone No. to be removed:

New Telephone No:

Parent's signature: Print Name: