



# BATLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL and PRIESTLEY HOUSE



**NEWSLETTER AUTUMN TERM 2008**

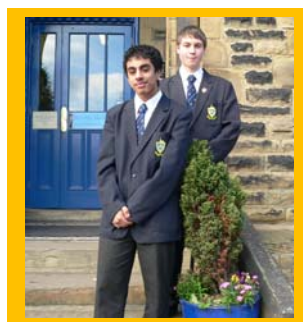
## 'A YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY AND ACHIEVEMENT'

At the Senior School Annual Speech Day in November we were most fortunate to have Professor Simon Lee, the Vice Chancellor of Leeds Metropolitan University, as our guest speaker distributing prizes and delivering a most articulate, relevant and succinct address. During the Head's Annual Report of the School Year 2007-8, Mrs Tullie summarised the year as one of "Great opportunity and achievement for all" and she commented, "We have all the ingredients for a winning combination: hard working staff, supportive parents and Governors and enthusiastic and well motivated pupils. There are times when we all, as ambassadors for the school, need to display a little less British modesty and be more overtly proud of this remarkable school and all those associated with it."



Mrs Tullie set a challenge to all the school community to make this happen over the forthcoming school year.

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS



A large number of prize winners received their prizes from Professor Lee. Pictured here are some of those recipients. With such an array of talented pupils, Speech Day is just one of the many opportunities in the school year when we can celebrate the success of our pupils.



## BOB THE BUILDER DAY!



Priestley House 'young builders' donned hard hats and high visibility jackets to help with the completion of the new block. The younger pupils in Mrs Stamp's class had been following the building with excitement. They had been practising brick-laying, materials testing and producing architectural drawings. The day provided a great opportunity for the pupils to be involved in the final stages and help out as a finale to their project work on construction.

## CLASSICS TRIP TO LONDON

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October, Year 12 and 13 Classics students headed to London to visit the Hadrian Exhibition at the British Museum, as well as to see the sights of the capital. A memorable time was had by all as the pupils visited The British Museum, Leicester Square, Trafalgar Square and the extremely interesting Portrait Museum. The day ended with a visit to the world famous market at Covent Garden, and a chance to shop as well as to marvel at the skills of the street entertainers. Thanks go to Mrs Wilson and Miss Sarah Hawkes for such a brilliant trip.



## ON YOUR BIKE!



Priestley House pupils in Years 5 and 6 experienced an exciting three day event when Kirklees Council employees provided them with Bicycle Training. The training took place on the front playground before proceeding onto quiet roads near school to complete the experience. The pupils were able to bring their own bicycles to school so that they could learn on familiar equipment. The training began with a number of safety checks such as wearing helmets, checking brakes, tyres, handle bars and the correct height of the seat.

The pupils were then taught how to mount their bike safely and the right starting position before they continued with riding techniques. Although this training consisted of a lot of practical work, the experience was enjoyable and contained useful knowledge which will stay with the pupils for the rest of their lives. They were rewarded for their hard work with a certificate and badge which were presented during Priestley House assembly.



## MEETING THE STARS AT CARNEGIE SPORTING WORDS DAY

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008, Year 7 pupils enjoyed a stimulating and motivating day out at Carnegie Stadium in Headingley, home of Yorkshire County Cricket Club, Leeds Rhinos and Leeds Carnegie, accompanied by Mrs Holmes, Mr Woodley and Mr Hussain. The 'Sporting Words' event was organised by Leeds Metropolitan University and Harrogate International Festival.



Pupils participated in many interesting activities linked to the world of sport. They also worked with BBC sports commentators learning the skills involved in this profession before being able to experience being sports commentators themselves. They provided commentary for football matches involving their favourite teams and races from the Beijing Olympics.



Undoubtedly, the highlight of the day was definitely the personal guided tour of the stadium. The lucky Year 7 pupils caught a glimpse of many Leeds Rhinos' rugby players as they arrived at the stadium to collect their kit for a big game. They were even more delighted by the guest star appearance of the athlete Linford Christie, whom pupils got to ask about what motivated and inspired him as a youngster.



Many Year 7 pupils were also pleased that they got to meet Tom Fowler, author of the detective football series, 'Foul Play'. Students were inspired by his talk on the subject of how he became a writer and his thoughts about the importance of reading and writing. Pupils received signed copies of his book which they are looking forward to reading in their Fiction Library lesson. Overall verdict, a thoroughly enjoyable and inspiring day out!



Thank you for collecting for the **Bag2School** collection this term. We raised £192.00. There will be another collection later in the year so if you have been having a 'Spring Clean' after Christmas please save your items.

**Thank you in advance for your support for Batley Grammar School and Priestley House with this venture.**

## TEXTILE AND CRAFT CLUB

Members of the textiles and craft club have been busy making soft toys this term. They have each made a rabbit personalised to their own design. As you would expect, our rabbit population is increasing rapidly with new arrivals expected on a daily basis! Most of the toys will be given to family members as gifts for Eid and Christmas. Jane Cui and Saarah Hafez are pictured with their cuddly toys.



## CCF UPDATE



The CCF has had a very busy term with a number of events taking place, in addition to the regular Tuesday meetings. In September and early October there were Shooting Practice and Shooting Competition Days, followed by the March and Shoot Competition. A total of 21 cadets took part in these activities. In November there was a Survival Training Weekend where 16 cadets took part and a Caving Day when 9 cadets went underground. In addition there have been 2 Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, this term, involving a total of 18 cadets and a Field Day, where 40 Army cadets went shooting and 12 RAF cadets went flying at RAF Church Fenton. At the beginning of next term, on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January, there will be a recruitment talk for Year 9 pupils.

## A NEW MUSICAL ENSEMBLE MAKES ITS DEBUT

Horn Club is a new musical venture in the school. We have several very good horn players in the school at the same time. The group was formed by Mr Bellamy, who has been working to improve his own playing, having lessons from a professional in Leeds. Miss Wilson, a member of staff in Priestley House, plays the French horn to a very high standard. The youngest French horn player is Stephanie Robinson, of Year 8, who plays a number of instruments inside and outside school.

The other instrument is the tenor horn, played by Sam Paley and Alex Bembridge of the Sixth Form, and Mr Wilby, who has recently joined the group. The bass line is taken by Mr Lorriman, playing the euphonium.

The big aural feature of the group is the warm sonority of the sound, brought about by the closeness of the tonal range of the instruments. Tuning and balance are therefore vital, which is very good training for the players in listening to each other.

The Horn Club made its debut at Speech Day and played again at the Christmas Concert.

Other horn players in the school are warmly invited to join us for 20 minutes each Thursday lunchtime.



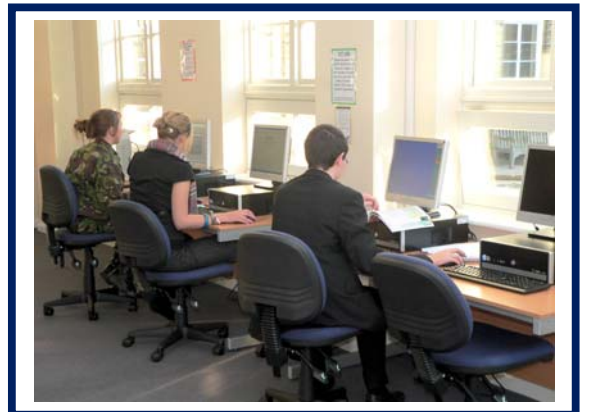
## THE NEW SIXTH FORM BUILD – FINALLY FINISHED!



At the end of November we finally had the handover of our new block, complete with Sixth Form common room, shop, kitchenette, locker room, ICT study room and three upstairs classrooms to be occupied by the Maths and Business Studies Departments.



The under floor heating was five star luxury after the less comfortable conditions of the old Common Room.



The new computers and the dedicated private study room are very popular with Sixth Formers who no longer have to search for spare computers to use within school. It didn't take long either for the snooker table, the flat screen TV and the micro Hi-Fi system to be all in use (together)!

The feedback from students was a most positive one; they really liked, and were very proud, of their new facilities.

## SENIOR SCHOOL AND PRIESTLEY HOUSE PUPILS COMBINE THEIR TALENTS FOR AN OUTSTANDING CHRISTMAS CONCERT



We broke with previous tradition this year and instead of having the Sixth Form pantomime follow the musical section of the Christmas concert, the audience was treated to a combined affair from both Senior School and Priestley House.

Whilst the audience sat and enjoyed their mulled wine and mince pies, they listened to a variety of musical items from the band, the choir, the horn group and the Priestley House choir.



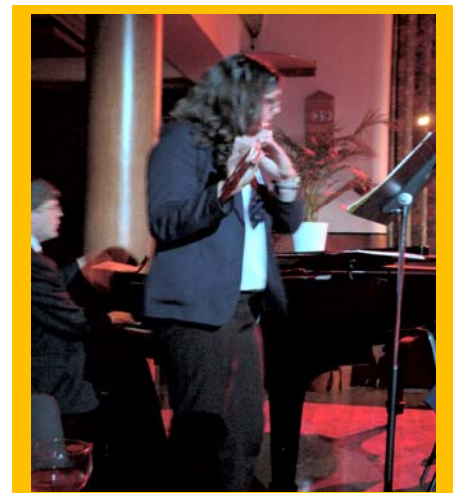
To complement the festive ensemble programme there were some most impressive soloists. These included Charlotte Arthurs, on flute, playing Adagio and Allegro by Pal Jardanyi, Jessica Brooke singing 'Have yourself a merry little Christmas' and James Forsbrook on the euphonium, playing Reginald Heath's Andante and Scherzo.

Then after the interval and the very successful Parents' Association Christmas Raffle, two further soloists who delighted



the audience were Andi Ding, on piano, playing Mozart's Allegro from the Sonata in F and Laurence Mason, on bassoon, playing the Finale from a Bassoon Concerto by Alan Ridout.

The decision to combine the musical talents of Priestley House with those of senior school was a splendid success. The pupils in Years 3 to 6 sang magically under the musical direction of Miss Sarah Wilson. The evening culminated with the band playing a repertoire from 'Pirates of the Caribbean' before the choirs, band and audience combined their efforts in more traditional carol singing.



## DEEP UNDERGROUND AT STUMP CROSS



Tuesday October 14<sup>th</sup>, was rather a different day for pupils in Year 4 as they donned hard hats and descended deep underground at Stump Cross Caverns, Greenhow. Mesmerised, they marvelled at the magnificent Reindeer Cave with its pure white columns and fragile straws; then spent time giving nicknames to the array of flow stone formations in the Cathedral Cave.

After a picnic lunch in Stump Cross café, limestone country was left behind and a quick, if rather wet, visit was paid to Brimham Rocks to see the amazing rock formations caused by the weathering of the local grit stone.

A good day was had by all!

## THE LEGACY OF SIR TITUS SALT – ONE OF OUR FAMOUS EX PUPILS



November 11<sup>th</sup> dawned with storm force winds and lashing rain, but that did not deter Year 6 from setting out with Mrs Hawkes and Mrs Barker to explore Saltaire Mill and Village. Built by the famous Industrialist, Sir Titus Salt, (incidentally, an ex-BGS pupil) during the 1850's, Saltaire is now a World Heritage Site and we found much to explore.

Many original features can still be seen, including the mill – now a popular tourist attraction – the chapel, the park and not forgetting the famous lions: War, Peace, Determination and Vigilance.

Notes – at times very soggy ones – were written, sketches were drawn and history was re-created in many minds as we visualised life in Saltaire, 150 years ago.

Back at school, notes and sketches were enthusiastically rewritten as tourist guides, and promises were made to drag friends and family back to a fascinating area where we all agreed there was much that we hadn't had time to see on that wet and windy Tuesday.



## CHARITY FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Our pupils do tremendously well each year with their fundraising efforts for causes which we regularly support. The Macmillan Coffee morning, held in late September raised £235.80 and the Poppy Appeal in November raised £220.07. In October we held a non-uniform day to raise money for the Jeans for Genes charity. Jeans for Genes buns were also sold at break time for 25p, and a 5-a-side football match between the teachers and the 6<sup>th</sup> Form was held at lunchtime, which the 6<sup>th</sup> Form won 5-3. In total £440 was raised.

Well done and thank you to all of you in both Priestley House and Senior School who supported these events.

**PICTURES FROM JUST SOME OF THE PRIESTLEY HOUSE CHRISTMAS EVENTS**

**CHRISTINGLE**



**KS1 NATIVITY**



**PRIESTLEY HOUSE PUPILS  
SINGING CHRISTMAS CAROLS TO  
SHOPPERS IN TESCO  
IN BATLEY TO RAISE FUNDS FOR  
KIRKWOOD HOSPICE**



**PARTY TIME!**



**FATHER CHRISTMAS VISITS**



Spring Term starts Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January  
Event dates can now be found on the website



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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