

Hollingworth High School



UPPER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 1

October 2005



HOLLINGWORTH NEWS!

We will aim to publish a newsletter each term giving information about the school to try to keep parents/carers informed about events in school. We know that parents/carers can be very frustrated about the failure of their sons and daughters to take information home. To try to improve this we have organised a competition for the younger pupils in the hope that this will encourage more of them to take letters home. Whether this would work with the older pupils is another question? However, we are very aware that we would like to improve the flow of information from school to home and we will be making attempts to move forward on this important issue.

MOCK EXAMS YEAR 11

These will begin on **Monday 21 November 2005**, with the exams expected to last about three weeks. Much depends on these exams. For example, a good result can often lead to pupils being entered for 'higher' level exams which offer the top (A*/A/B) GCSE grades. We know from experience that a good set of results in these mock exams usually means good results in the Summer GCSEs.

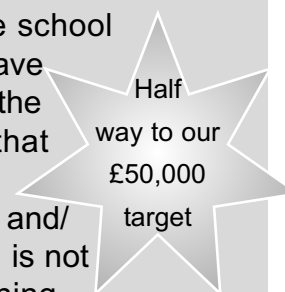


INTERVIEWS / CONSULTATIONS

Year 10 pupils have their first interview scheduled for **Wednesday 14 December**. Parents/carers are invited to this important meeting which will discuss progress made towards GCSE study. Targets will be discussed at this meeting with another meeting organised in July to discuss whether the targets have been achieved.

BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE BID

Hollingworth is aiming to become a Specialist Business and Enterprise School. If the school can achieve this status the government will give the school about an extra £150,000 each year. This money would be used to improve facilities at the school, which would benefit all pupils. The snag is that the school has to raise £50,000. We have already raised £25,000 but the government's rules mean that the remaining £25,000 has to be raised from donations and/or sponsorship. The school is not allowed to raise this remaining money from fundraising events such as sponsored walks or other school activities. A newsletter about this will give more information. One aim the school does have, should it be successful in attaining Business and Enterprise status, will be to provide educational opportunities for parents/carers and the local community. If you could help in any way, please contact Mrs Bentley at school, or e-mail info@hhs.rochdale.sch.uk and put 'Business and Enterprise' in the subject line.



SCHOOL COUNCILS & SPORTS REPRESENTATIVES

Pupils in Years 10 and 11 have now elected their counsellors from each of the form groups. The year councils will meet about five times this year and their views and suggestions always help to shape school developments.

Sports representatives have also been selected and these will help to organise inter-form competitions which are held on Thursday and Friday afternoons.

AWARDS EVENINGS

Many thanks to all who were able to attend the recent awards evening on Wednesday 21 September. All visitors were asked to complete a questionnaire which asked parents/carers for some of their opinions about school. The results were very helpful and a summary of the replies has been outlined below.



SUMMARY OF PARENTAL SURVEY

Thank you to all who completed questionnaires. The results were very encouraging with 92% of parents/carers at least generally satisfied with the school. Other highlights included 92% of parents/carers believing that their children usually enjoy coming to school and that 96% of people believe the school to be a very safe place for their sons and daughters. Pupil behaviour was rated by 68% of parents as at least good with 77% parents believing that the amount of homework set is about right. Other replies indicate that most people believe the school is going in the right direction.

Some parents asked for more information about school dining. Weekly menus are posted on our website (www.hhonline.co.uk) and parents can check to see the different options available. Some people asked 'how long did the children have to queue for their food?' Usually, no queue should be longer than about 7 or 8 minutes. Often most people are served within 5 minutes although the length of queues can vary between different days and different sittings. We remain committed to speedy service and we will be reviewing our arrangements next term.

Another point raised by some parents concerned the after school sports events on Thursdays and Fridays. Several events have been organised in September and October such as inter-form netball and football.

Other events are planned for November and December including more inter-form football and indoor cricket.

SCHOOL MEALS As many parents/carers will have noticed, the government plans more changes regarding school meals. Hollingworth already holds regular 'healthy eating weeks' and, while we would not pretend that all the pupils enjoy these promotions, most pupils recognise the aims of these events. We are confident that we will be able to easily comply with the new regulations but, as always, we will be canvassing pupil opinion (and parents/carers) about new ideas for menus. Details about this will follow in the New Year.

Incidentally, another competition was recently



organised by Mr Stretton, The Catering Manager, with a Sony Play Station 2 the prize for the winner.

Recent competitions have seen an X-Box and a PlayStation awarded. To enter, pupils merely need to buy a school meal with the winning ticket drawn at random from those participants.

The next school year starts on Wednesday 6 September 2006. Full details about the dates for next year will be made available soon. If anyone requires these immediately, the main school office has a copy, but it is also available on our website.

“ We hope this has been of some value. We would welcome suggestions to improve communications. If you have any ideas, please share them with your child's Head of Year.”

C Burnett
Head Teacher