

Hollingworth High School



LOWER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 1

October 2005



HOLLINGWORTH NEWS!

Each term we aim to publish a newsletter to help keep parents/carers informed about events in school. We know parents/carers can get very frustrated about the failure of their sons and daughters to take information home. In an attempt to improve the prospect of this being read, we have organised a competition. If the tear-off slip is completed and returned to school it will be entered into a prize draw. This will be drawn in a school assembly with the winner in each year group receiving a £20 voucher.

Some school trips have been organised for this term. **These include:**

- About 110 Year 9 pupils visited Castleton last week as part of their Geography experience.
- About 20 Year 8 pupils are going to Italy in March 2006. They will visit Pompeii and Naples, whilst being based in Sorrento.

INTERVIEWS / CONSULTATIONS

Important dates for parents/carers this term. Consultation sessions have been organised with the first scheduled in November. A follow-up session has been organised during the summer term and details about this will follow next year. More details about the following sessions will be available soon.

This term's consultations are :

- Tuesday 1 November : Year 9
- Monday 7 November : Year 7
- Monday 14 November : Year 8

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 PlayStation 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.

SCHOOL COUNCILS & SPORTS REPRESENTATIVES Pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 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.

LAPTOP SCHEME The school has been operating a laptop leasing scheme for the past three years. Under the scheme, pupils are able to lease a laptop computer over a period of three years. The laptop enables pupils to access software on the school network, resources on the school's intranet and provides fast internet access in school.

Leased laptops come with a three year warranty and three year insurance cover against fire, theft and accidental damage. Different models of laptops are available and the monthly payments are currently somewhere in the region of £21 to £26. Following enquiries from parents the school now has a revised policy on laptop use and it is now possible for pupils to use laptops in school which have been purchased outside the scheme. This option is subject to conditions and the payment of an appropriate sum



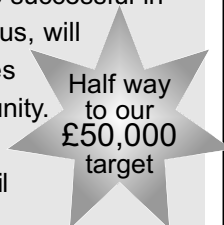
to school for the provision of networking & other software. This is required in order to make pupils' own laptops compatible with the school network. If you are interested in having further information

about any aspects of these options please contact Mr. S. Smith at school on 01706 751073.

BUSINESS & 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.



AWARDS EVENINGS Many thanks to all who were able to attend the recent awards evening on Wednesday 28 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 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.

“ 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

Please return to your Head of Year by Friday 21 October
LOWER SCHOOL HOLLINGWORTH NEWS DRAW!!!!

I confirm receipt of the Newsletter and would like to enter my child's name into the draw.

Name: _____

Tutor Group: _____

Signed: _____ Parent/Carer

Date _____

