

# COPPICE NEWSLETTER

**COPPICE**  
PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL  
DREAM BELIEVE ACHIEVE

December 2011, Issue 8

## A Message from the Headteacher

It never ceases to amaze me how much can happen in just 12 months. We are ending this Autumn term with a school building which bears no resemblance to the building which we were inhabiting 12 months ago. We now have an exceptional new Sports Hall, excellent new changing facilities, a refurbished swimming pool which will be returned to use after the Christmas break, new Dining Hall with modern furniture and a new drama studio, all received since the October half term! All of this follows the initial September handover of the Discovery Zone. We are very pleased with the progress of the building project so far and anticipate that the end of the school year will see another large section of the school returned to us.

We have been able to offer lockers to all Year 7 students and are now in a position to extend that offer to 6th form students. As more lockers are provided with the building development we will be issuing lockers to more year groups until, eventually, every student will have their own personal locker.

We are very proud that Coppice is the first school in Wolverhampton to display a piece of "Public Art, funded by the local council and BSF, in the form of the "Acrobatic Tumbler" on the Sports Hall. This piece of art has been developed by local artist Mick Thaker who is working closely with our BTEC art students to design further artwork for the front of the new school.

Many students in Years 10 and 11 have already taken modules for their English and Maths GCSE's this term and many more examinations will be taken by these students and 6<sup>th</sup> form students, in the January exams session (the timetable can be found on the school website). During the well earned Christmas break some planned revision and preparation time will be essential and we thank parents in anticipation of your support for this.

The weather has been very reasonable this year and we have to hope that our winter continues to be mild. Should harsh snow conditions occur we will make an assessment as to the safety of the school site for students. We will always post information regarding emergency closures due to snow on the homepage of the school website [www.coppice.wolverhampton.sch.uk](http://www.coppice.wolverhampton.sch.uk) as well as via the local radio stations.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas. I look forward to welcoming you back in 2012.

Janice Fletcher  
Headteacher

## BSF Developments

Sports Hall completed  
November 2011



Ongoing works continue on the  
new Theatre and Main Entrance



The new Sports Hall was opened in November. This is a great facility and is being used for all of our curriculum timetable, as well as extra-curricular clubs at both lunch and after school.



# ...And a Happy New Year





# CURRICULUM FOCUS

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SPORTS NEWS - Towers Visit, Sports Updates, G&T Activity, Learn to Learn, Social Studies, Health & Social Care, MacMillan Coffee

## Sports News

### Year 10 Towers Trip

Towers Outdoor Education Centre is in the north of Wales, Capel Cruig to be exact, to be even more precise than that the little town of Betws Y Coed.

The activities that we took part in included: Abseiling, Canoeing, Climbing on rock face over the sea, Kayaking, Mountain Climbing (took ages to get up there, but it was worth it, the view was stunning) Gorge Walking & Night-time activities with our teachers and Towers staff.

In all honesty I have written this because Towers is a place where laughter and excitement come together to form complete happiness for everyone. It gave us an opportunity to talk to those students that we wouldn't normally talk to in school, in a sense it's a place where strangers become friends. Team work takes place in whatever activity you do. Towers is a place where young people get to have out of this world experiences and face their fears, no matter how big or small; from being scared of insects/bugs to being afraid of heights.

My experience at Towers has made me more independent. The staff are all lovely, they support you in any decision that you make. Being outdoors is the greatest place ever because you are forever by nature and I personally think that the outdoors calms a lot of people down. Overall it's just an experience that I NEVER want to forget, because if I had the chance to go again I would definitely not say no.

Coppice Performing Arts School's, Year 10's in 2011 **LOVED** Towers!  
**Year 10 Student**



...sports news cont...

**Netball** - Tyler Haynes (Year 12) has made the National Netball Team (Bath Netball Club) who play live games on Sky. She missed out on her International bib but will be training with them in the near future... Good luck!

Our first Netball match was played in November, we won one and drew one so overall a great night.

**Cross Country** - Year 7, 8 & 9 Boys Cross Country teams have really started well in the first 2 schools leagues. Both teams are placed 3rd overall with exceptional performances from Liam Icke in Yr 7 (2nd place), Alex Pateman in Yr 8 (3rd place) and Tom Collier Yr 9 (4th place).

## Learn to Learn - RAF Cosford Visit

All Year 7 students had the opportunity to visit RAF Cosford as part of the Learning to Learn Curriculum for Humanities.

Going to Cosford was a great experience, when there we visited many areas of the museum including the Test Flight section where we were able to look at many different types of planes and equipment; test flight equipment where you can test your reaction skills. We also visited the area designated to War Planes, they were amazing, it was really good to be able to see planes that had been used in the war and within this section we could also view wartime equipment such as gas masks used by people in the war.

We had the option to visit the Gift Shop to purchase any mementums from our trip. I thoroughly enjoyed my day at RAF Cosford and I would definitely go again.

**Lauren Coke,**  
**Year 7**



## Gifted & Talented

### Schools Question and Answer Competition

Our Gifted and Talented students have been using their own time to produce a documentary on Animal Testing that has been entered into 'Schools Question and Answers'. Students from all Years have participated in the completion of the documentary, although only 14-19 year olds could actually perform and produce the debate. Students voted Josh Holdcroft to be 'Jonathan Dimbleby' along with the panel of Joshua Thomas, Isobel Baker, Tarenpreet Mann, and Jake Spooner (with Amy Stokes and Luke Illidge as stand ins). They hope to be one of the lucky groups of students to win either a trip to the Houses of Parliament or to get an opportunity to produce an episode of 'Question Time' with their own choice of topic and guests. It was decided the prizes alone were worth entering the competition for!



## Health & Social Care

### Year 12 visit to Beacon Centre for the Blind

Year 12 Health & Social Care students visited Beacon Centre for the Blind on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October. Upon their arrival they were greeted and given a tour of the building. We were shown the quiet rooms, pottery studio, gym, café, apartments and meeting rooms. There are so many places for residents and visitors to attend group activities. We were informed that there was a function being held for people with sight impairment, this provided visitors with the chance to seek advice and discover new technologies available to them. We were given the opportunity to help out at the event and were assigned two tasks to help with the running of the event. The visit was a valuable experience for those who attended.

## Social Studies

As part of the Social Studies curriculum, students in 10J1 have worked on the topic of the 'Plains Indians'. They each deserve praise for the presentations and work they prepared, delivered and completed with each other. They have collectively taught each other what they needed to learn about the Plains Indians, working as teams to produce some excellent work that will be used again next year to hopefully the same good learning effect.



## Sixth Form



**LET'S MAKE IT THE BIGGEST EVER**

Sixth Form students put their baking skills to good use by making lots of cakes to sell on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September in aid of MacMillan Coffee Morning. Staff and Sixth Formers were also encouraged to wear something Green to further support the event. A total of **£120.00** was raised.



# PREVIOUS AND FUTURE EVENTS

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Dates for your Diary, Remembrance, Year 11 Options & Partnership Evening, Dance News

## Dates for your Diary

### January

Tuesday 10th, Exam period starts  
Thursday 19th, Year 9 PARENT Partnership Evening  
26-27th, 'Our House' at the Grand Theatre

### February

Thursday 9th, Year 9 Options Evening  
Wednesday 29th, Year 13 H&SC Health Fair

### March

Tuesday 1st, Year 10 Parent Partnership Evening  
Tuesday 13th, Year 11 Leavers Photos  
Wednesday 21st, Year 10 H&SC Creative & Therapeutic Day



## Year 11 Options Evening & Partnership Evening

The Year 11 Options Evening took place on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November. It was held in the Discovery Zone where subject teachers showcased their subjects with displays and interactive activities to engage students. It was a spectacular evening with a real 'buzz' where prospective Sixth Form students were able to have invaluable discussions about their future options with key staff. In the Dining Room refreshments were served whilst we showcased our Performing Arts in our newly opened Drama Studio. There were talks for parents to drop in to as well as an opportunity to talk to senior staff, Connexions personnel and existing Sixth Form students.

The quality of the evening was excellent and a testament to the hard work and commitment of staff. In addition students as always were a real credit and fantastic Ambassadors for our Sixth Form.

Year 11 Parent Partnership Evening was held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2011 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm. It was an extremely successful evening with attendance well over 80%. The atmosphere was lovely and we had very positive comments from the parents in terms of how useful they found the evening. Some of the parental quotes were as follows:

*"Excellent" "Found it extremely helpful. Thank you"*  
*"Pleasure coming here to a lovely school, good teachers and always welcoming. Pleased with child's education".*

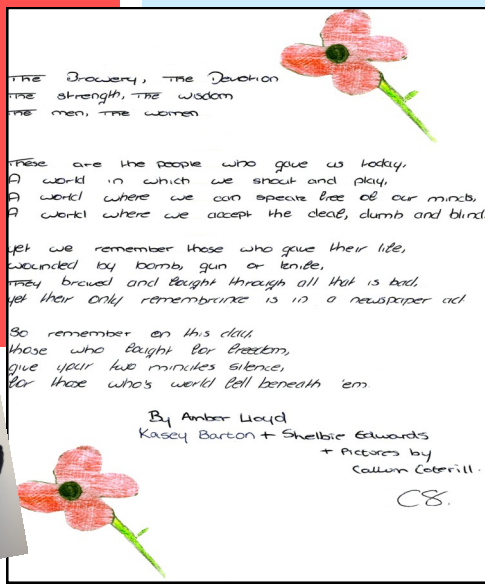
Staff also found the evening very constructive, where they were directly able to speak to the parents and students together and suggest strategies to help move students forward.

## Remembrance

Due to the BSF refurbishment work a suitable venue for our annual Remembrance Service was unavailable. Coppice still recognised Remembrance Day in the following ways; buying Poppies (all poppies delivered to school were sold), poem competition where students wrote poems with a Remembrance/World War 1 theme and a poster competition where each Form designed a Remembrance Day poster (a selection of these were then used by Wednesfield British Legion at their Remembrance Service at St Thomas' Church).

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November during the morning Philip Griffin went around school in full TA uniform selling Poppies and talking to students about the importance of the day. In the lead up to 11:00am staff had a selection of videos to show students about why we celebrate the 11/11. At 11:00am everywhere in the school went silent with all staff and students standing to show their respect to the fallen soldiers of the wars. In the Discovery Zone, Jay Wiley played the last Post/Reveille either side of the 2 minute silence.

While we were notable to have our usual service the silence demonstrated by the students was peaceful, reverent and made staff very proud of how the students showed their respect.



## Dance News

The Dance Department have been extremely busy as usual over the last few weeks....

**Youth Dance England.** Two students Bethany Ruffle & Stephan Osik entered Youth Dance Englands programme 'Youth Dance Creative' They were invited to attend the next stage at the Royal Opera House. Watch this space!

**International Dance Project.** Ten students took part in this project with ACE Dance Company and an invited French Youth Company. At the Midlands and Warwick Arts Centre of 4 days. The students took part in professional workshops, performances & conferences about the future of Youth Dance

**Laban Trip.** Ten A Level Dance students attended the Laban Centre in London in November. This visit involved students from Coppice taking part in tours, seminars, performances and gave students a chance to take part in technique classes.

**Performing Arts Trip.** On November 22nd, 15 Performing Arts Level 3 students visited the Arena Theatre to see Clock Work Orange by Volcano Theatre Company.

**Movement & Light Project.** On 15th December there will be an opening exhibition of Movement & Light Photography collaborated by dance & art students from Coppice and Project Dandelion, (The BSF Public Art Programme) This will take place from 7.00pm in the new Discovery Zone.

### Dance Companies & Rehearsal Times

**'Forma Dance'.**  
New Youth Dance Company for Years 7 to 9 Rehearse every Tuesday.

**'Fidget Dance Company'.**  
15 dancers aged between 11 & 16 from Coppice & external. Chorographers Amy Ashmore & Shanice Pearson. Rehearse Wed evenings 4pm to 6pm.

**'Flexus Dance Company'.** 10 dancers, (5 males, 5 females), training & rehearsals Fri & Sun.





# PREVIOUS AND FUTURE EVENTS

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Christmas Concert, Year 7 Settling In Evening, Charity Events, Coursework Clinic, Open Day/Eve, SSAT Conference,

## Christmas Concert



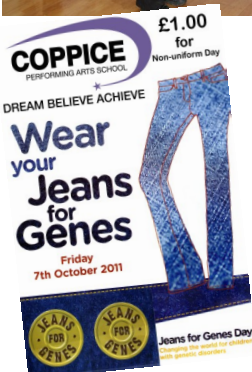
The Christmas concert held at St Thomas' Church in Wednesfield on 6th December was a joyous event filled with festive spirit.

The students performances were outstanding and it was clear that a lot of hard work and effort had gone into the programme.

This year monies raised from the sale of programmes and raffle tickets, to the total of £200.80, has been donated to the 'Church Roof Appeal'. Once again the Church were wonderful hosts and made the students, staff and audience feel extremely welcome. A wonderful evening was had by all.

## Charity Events

Thank you to everyone who took part in the 'Shoe Box Appeal', and donated to Jeans for Jeans & Comic Relief.



## SSAT National Conference

Specialist Schools & Academies Trust National Conference, 30th Nov 2011

For the first time Coppice was represented at this year's National Conference by Janice Fletcher and Katy Dowson (Head of Dance), together with ex Year 13 Dance Students Bethany Ruffle and Stephan Osik who presented a showcase seminar in response to the Conference theme of "Every Child Has Talent"

Schools are given the opportunity to submit an application to participate in the Conference as a deliverer. The conference theme lent itself so clearly to our pursuit of excellence in the performing arts, together with our high expectations and aspirations which continue to grow with the new BSF facilities. We are delighted that what we are trying to achieve at Coppice is recognised as valuable and significant to share in a national forum. The reputation of Coppice grows from strength to strength locally, the next step is to establish and promote our best achievements at a wider level.



## Year 7 Settling in Evening

On 20<sup>th</sup> October 2011 we had Year 7 'Settling in Evening'. This was well attended with over 90% attendance. Starting secondary school is a worrying time for every parent and they want to know that their child had settled in well, is happy and learning at school. This evening provides parents an opportunity to come into the school and speak to Academic Tutors about their child's progress, behaviour, attitude to learning, etc.

## Coursework Clinic

Coursework Clinic is progressing well with good attendance recorded up to the end of last half term. It is being utilised by all subjects, bringing students back after school to complete coursework or carry out revision.

Although Coursework Clinic is meant for Year 11 students, several Year 10 students have also attended. This way we are ensuring that all KS4 students who need extra help get it. Many students attend Coursework Clinic voluntarily as it is sold to students as a supportive activity instead of an enforced one.

Students who have attended Coursework Clinic have found it very useful and many have completed their coursework as a result of it. Maths and English Curriculum Areas are using Coursework Clinic as an opportunity to do extra work with their focus groups to give students the final push towards achieving their target grades.

## Open Day & Evening

Open Evening was challenging to organise this year with the amount of building work going on around the site but although circumstances were not ideal was still a great success. The turnout of prospective parents/students was our highest in recent years and we were able to offer them the following programme:

The Headteacher's presentation took place in the theatre (with this smaller venue, it was necessary for several deliveries, this proved very popular with parents). The new Discovery Zone was the main teaching presentation area; all teaching rooms, laboratories and open learning area were used to their full potential and looked amazing, although unfinished we were able to show the potential of our new Sports Hall and Dining Hall with the Davis Block and Mobiles used to show how the school is functioning normally at the moment through the building work around us. The evening was presented by staff, students, Sixth Formers, Governors and Parents' Forum members, BSF representatives and kitchen staff who all worked extremely hard to make it a very informative and well received evening, (despite the very heavy rain).