



Plessington Catholic Technology College

Issue No. 5 Volume 1
11th November 2005

Theme for the Week: *Courage*

A young soldier had been injured in the Second World War. The hospital had been destroyed and medics were using the Church as an operating theatre. The soldier was told he needed a leg amputation. However, there was no anaesthetic left.

"Put me over there for the operation", he said, pointing to the altar on which there stood a huge crucifix.

"If I can see him I'll be able to cope."

Help us to remember your Cross, Lord, so that we might cope with our own Crosses. Amen.

MASS THIS WEEK

**Wednesday – 1.30pm
In the Chapel**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

24 November 2005 GCSE Module Science Exam. This involves Year 10 (Modular and Separate Science classes). Year 11 (modular retakes and single award courses). Revision guides and practice papers can be purchased from Science staff at £2 – they are worth it!

Revision classes will take place after school. Pupils will receive a timetable. Please support those after school classes. By attending pupils can increase their performance.

"NUMERACY BRAINTEASER"

Trixie Triangle was learning to play the piano. She decided to practice for 5 minutes on day 1,
15 minutes on day 2,
25 minutes on day 3,
and so on.

How many days would it be before she was practising for more than half the day?

Give your answer slips to Miss Hodges in Room B12 by Friday 18 November. All correct answers will be entered into a draw to win a £5 gift voucher

Last Winner – Sarah Browne 7AB

Last week's solution 242

Plessington News

Note from the Head

'It's Draining Again'

We've had a bad run over the past couple of weeks with the weather. On Tuesday evening as pupils were leaving school the drains near the school gate couldn't take the torrential downpour. Just to let you know that we have had the problem sorted – so apologies to any students who got soggy shoes! Please don't hesitate to let us know if you are aware of any practical issues that cause concern such as the above and we will do our very best to get any issues dealt with as soon as possible.

Hairstyles

A reminder to parents and students that we have a clear policy on all uniform and appearance issues including hairstyles. After half-term, a small number of boys returned to school with extreme styles of shaved haircuts. The last thing we want to do is sanction or isolate students for such matters but the rules are there to be observed by all. Please support us and your child on issues of uniform and appearance. Our standards are high here at Plessington and it is something we work very hard to maintain.

Consultation Meetings

The consultation meetings begin next week. Please check the timetable below for the relevant year group.

Consultation Meetings Autumn Term

Year 7	Tuesday	15 November	10.00-6.30pm
Year 8	Wednesday	16 November	10.00-6.30pm
Year 9	Thursday	17 November	10.00-6.30pm
Year 10	Wednesday	23 November	10.00-6.30pm

Parents should now have returned the reply slip indicating a preferred time for the meeting. The Form Tutor will write the time of the appointment in the pupil's planner. Parents are reminded that pupils will be on study leave for their relevant consultation day. When accompanying parents for the individual appointments, pupils should arrive in full school uniform.

GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP HELPS CAFOD

Ethan Fahy of 8JA raised £530.00 for CAFOD at the end of July 2005. He raised this money by sleeping on the floor for 3 weeks! This was his own idea and he sorted out his own sponsorship which included family, friends, parish and Plessington staff.

WELL DONE ETHAN!

Visit our new e-learning portal – <http://www.samlearning.com>

AMNESTY PLEDGE

Following the Year 10 assembly on Faith, the Year 10 council have decided to remember people imprisoned for their faith during the season of good will.

We plan to run the Amnesty International Christmas Card campaign in cooperation with Year 9 during their charity window and the Sixth Form Amnesty Group.

There will be lunchtime sessions starting next week (times to be arranged) where those concerned may gather together to make Christmas cards. These cards will then be sent to prisoners of conscience all around the world in the hope that our remembering their suffering will be a comfort to them.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Congratulations to the Year 7 football team who finished the first half of the season with the following:- Played 5 won 4. We are looking forward to arranging the Wirral Cup 1st round game against St Mary's.
2. The first half of the football season has finished. The main team game for the boys is Basketball. Any player wanting to represent the school should attend training on Monday and Thursday lunchtimes.
3. The Oval Sports Centre has refurbished its squash courts and Mr Carter would like to start a coaching group Tuesday lunchtimes. Any pupil wishing to start a new game should see him as soon as possible.
4. Amnesty International Christmas Card Appeal – Year 8 will be supporting this charity campaign, which sends cards to prisoners of conscience. If you are able to donate any Christmas cards please send them in to Mr Carter or Mr Badger.

THE SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETS

The School Council met in the library on Monday this week and were very pleased to welcome Mr Quinn and Mr Rylance to the meeting. The members enjoyed getting feedback about the items on the agenda 'on the spot'. A lot was discussed and by now everyone should have seen the *minutes* posted on their form noticeboards as well as the two points of action – the restaurant and the condition of the toilets.

Pupils will find in this edition of the *Plessington News* a questionnaire about changes to our school uniform. Please complete these and hand them in to your form tutor.

This year really is a time for change and hopefully all pupils and students will get involved through their form council meetings and year council meetings. I am also going to put some suggestion boxes around the school – more about this in a later edition of *Plessington News*. To the student body I say:

YOU HAVE A VOICE – USE IT!

P.A.S.S.

Year 7 pupils will be completing a questionnaire in their ICT lessons over the next two weeks. This questionnaire has been carefully designed to provide the school with information on what pupils think about school as well as themselves as learners – Pupil Attitudes to Self and School (P.A.S.S.) In some cases the answers provided may allow us to offer some support or a different kind of support to pupils so that they may achieve to a higher level. I will send further information to you by letter in the near future.

ART DEPARTMENT

Last year a number of GCSE Art students worked in school with an Artist-in-residence film maker, producing an animated film "Sea Shanty" to celebrate 2005 as the International Year of the Sea.

In September the film was showcased at the 'Fact' Arts Centre in Liverpool. In competition with films submitted by colleges and community groups throughout the region. It was selected as a prize winner and will be shown by the BBC on the huge public screen in Clayton Square, Liverpool in the near future.

The film is also to be included in an exhibition opening at the Tate Gallery, Liverpool on 16 November. It has also been selected to be shown at a film festival opening on the 25 November at the 'Cornerhouse' Arts Centre, Manchester.

Eight Year 12 students recently accompanied Mr Regan on a stop frame animation enrichment activity at the Learning Lighthouse Centre, Wallasey.

YEAR 9 RETREATS

All Year 9 pupils have been away to Pantasaph this week on retreat. The theme of the day was "vocation and calling" and it allowed pupils to reflect upon their gifts and talents, choices in their lives and faith in the future. A variety of workshops were visited which included discussions, practical art work and group activities, as well as time to walk the Stations of the Cross.

Pupils, Form Tutors, RE teachers, as well as Mr Badger and Mr Carter, all agreed it was a positive day for all ... and look forward to next year's retreat

SCHOOL MENU: Please see our new menu for next week.

WEEK 3	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Pasta Dish	Tuna Pasta Bake	Meatballs in Carrot & Tomato Sauce	Italian Pepperoni	Spaghetti Bolognese	Tomato & peppers
Rice Dish	Beef Balti	Chicken Chow Mein	Chicken Supreme	Chicken Korma	Chefs' Special
Main Course	Chicken Wraps	Savoury Mince with Scone Topping	Roast Turkey Dinner	Corned Beef Hash	Battered Fish
Vegetarian Choice	Veggie Wraps	With Scone Topping	Roast Nut Loaf Dinner	Cheese Omelette	
	Potato Wedges Mashed Potato Veg of the Day Beans Gravy	Potato Wedges Mashed Potato Veg of the Day Beans Gravy	Potato Wedges Mashed Potato Veg of the Day Beans Gravy	Potato Wedges Mashed Potato Veg of the Day Beans Gravy	Chips Mashed Potato Veg of the Day Beans Gravy
	Pizza	Burger	Pizza	Burger	Pizza
	Sausage Sausage Roll Fish Cakes Cheese Pastie	Sausage Sausage Roll Fish Cakes Cheese Pastie	Sausage Sausage Roll Fish Cakes Cheese Pastie	Sausage Sausage Roll Fish Cakes Cheese Pastie	Sausage Sausage Roll Fish Cakes Cheese Pastie

STARLAB-SCIENCE DEPARTEMENT

This week saw the first appearance of Starlab to Plessington Catholic Technology College. StarLab is an inflatable dome and multimedia planetarium that allows vivid computer-generated images to be shown inside it.

Inside Starlab students were able to identify constellations in our night's sky and learn about our Solar System and Space exploration. Students in year 7 and Year 9 found it really fun and were able to learn important concepts about space which is tested in the KS3 Year 9 National Tests.

KS3 SCIENCE DISCOVERY CLUB

Fifty Young Scientists in Years 7 and 8 have been regularly attending Discovery club. They have successfully participated in experiments based around the Chemistry of Food which is also this week's theme for The Royal Society of Chemistry's 'Chemistry Week 2005'.

Students have witnessed the Screaming Jelly baby! They have made Sherbet, Caramel and have made chromatograms of the dyes in Sweets. Future experiments for the Young Scientists to investigate are making Ice Cream with Liquid Nitrogen, Investigating why cooks add salt to food, and the affect of caffeine on heart rate!

The Spring Term sees the Discovery club investigating Physics experiments for those that enjoy learning about Forces, Energy, Space, Light and Sound. Please see Miss Parry or Miss Rowe if you are keen to join in with all the Fun!

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Last April tragedy struck two of my closest friends. Their second little baby, Archie, who had been so eagerly awaited, was born with a life threatening condition called "transposition" of the major arteries. This basically means that the main arteries in his heart were the wrong way around, meaning his little body was not getting enough oxygen. This was diagnosed when he was literally days old.

His condition had initially gone unnoticed by the hospital where he was born in Barrow-in-Furness. A routine visit from the midwife called attention to Archie's pale blue colouring, which his mum, Sarah, was also becoming concerned about. As with most babies with a heart condition, Archie was hardly feeding, finding it almost impossible. The midwife informed the local hospital and in a state of panic and frenzy Archie was taken from his home in an incubator, being given oxygen, with the doctors still unaware of his condition. In retrospect, it could have been tragic giving Archie oxygen, in light of his condition. Sarah and Paul, Archie's parents were distraught, especially on being told a leading surgeon was on his way to Barrow, with a team of doctors and an ambulance to take Archie to Alder Hey, Liverpool.

I received a call in school to ask if my husband, Neil, could pick them up from Barrow to bring them to Alder Hey as they were in such a state. Neil did and once in Liverpool the waiting for them began.

The following day I told my form 11EC what had happened. They are very good at detecting when I am not on top form. I told them the whole story and we all prayed for the whole week for Archie. The pupils were fantastic and praying with them helped me. Little did I know on telling Paul and Sarah just how much it had helped them too, so much so that months later at their children's christening and their wedding, 11EC became part of their wedding speech. They said the night I told them, which was the night before Archie's open-heart surgery, it was what helped them through the night. They said the children's prayers gave them a real comfort which they will hold fondly forever.

Archie slowly got better and, as I said, months later he and his sister, Violet were christened and on the same day, to the surprise of everyone, Paul and Sarah got married. 11EC have collected money for Alder Hey for the Heart Unit and continue to do so. The boys are organising a penalty shoot out and the girls cake sales. 11EC and all year 11 intend to raise a target of £1000 - on top of money already raised - which will be donated to Alder Hey.

In a follow up article in one of Barrow's papers, 11EC and the Year 11 of Plessington have become part of the remarkable story of Archie Musgrave!

By Carmel Davidson, R.E. Department

KINGSWOOD ACTIVITY CENTRE WEEKEND

Shelley Milsom and Phil Eddowes of the ICT Department arranged this weekend of activities. It was a huge success from start to finish. The ICT course they followed was very interesting and extremely relevant to the DIDA course the pupils will follow in Year 10. The work produced was of a very high standard. The activities were enjoyed by all students and their confidence grew as they days progressed. The students' behaviour was fantastic and they represented Plessington well.

A thoroughly enjoyable weekend for all. The videos produced by the students will be played in assembly and I will also show the photographs taken in a presentation. The students will be awarded with a certificate and a copy of all groups DVDs. Students will be asked / invited to attend a multimedia club after school.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following Year 9 pupils:-

Jessica Hewitt (9AB), Hannah Talib (9AB) and Deiniol Cowley (9EA), on the excellent work they do in the Army Cadets.

Well done to Hannah and Deiniol on achieving 'Cadet of the Month' status.

Early Warning for Exams

An early reminder to all our Year 11 pupils that the mock GCSE exams will begin Thursday 1st December.

You should by now have set aside some time to study each night in preparation for doing your best.

An organised child is a successful one.

Parents & Friends of Plessington

PFOP held a very successful Quiz Night with a hotly contested competitive edge. Many thanks to everyone involved and please watch this space for more events.
Remember all parents can be involved.

GCSE SCIENCE REVISION CLASSES

Improve your grade in the Modular Exam

24 November 2005 9.00 a.m.

Module	Teacher	When
5 Metals	Mr Marsh	Tue 15 November 3.30 – 4.30 p.m. in B21
2 Maintenance of Life	Ms Parry	Wed 16 November 3.30 – 4.30 p.m. in A33
9 Energy	Ms Phillips	Thur 17 November 3.30 – 4.30 p.m. in A26
1 Humans as Organisms	Ms Parry	Tue 22 November A33
6 Earth Materials	Mr Marsh	3.30 – 4.30 p.m. in B21
10 Electricity	Ms Phillips	A26
17 Energy and Electricity	Mr Wilmshurst	Wed 16 November 1.15 – 1.45 p.m. in B22

Further details about the revision classes or your entry into the exam available from Mr Marsh

HEALTHY SCHOOL AWARD

I am delighted to report that the school has been awarded a Healthy School Award, following a great deal of effort by various members of the school team

EXTRA CURRICULAR MUSIC

	Lunch Time	After School
Monday	GCSE Music – JS Brass Group – RA	
Tuesday	Year 7 Choir – JS	Main School Choir – JS
Wednesday	Theory – JS Woodwind Group – HH	GCSE Music – JS Wind Band – HH
Thursday	Upper School Choir – JS Keyboard Club – HH	Liturgy Music Group – JS/TMcG
Friday	Flute Choir – HH Brass Group – RA	

COME AND TRY IT!

QUIZ COMPETITION

This week sees the start of an exciting quiz competition, with a weekly prize of £5 (donated by a parent) for the winner, drawn from all successful entrants.

Each week pupils are invited to submit the answer on a piece of paper (including their name and form for identification) and place in a box by Reception. The winner will be announced in the Plessington News.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Sunday is Remembrance Day: On which date did World War I actually begin?

