



## YOUNG VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

On Friday 18th November, last year's Year 7 football team, four Year 11 students - Joe Johns, Brogan Stewart, Theerapat Neuto and Sarah Kirkby - and Tom Milligan (last year's Year 11) all attended the Barrow Sports Council Awards at Barrow Town Hall. The Year 7 Football team was shortlisted for the Junior Sports Team of the Year Award and the individual students were all shortlisted for the Young Volunteer of the Year Award.

For so many Furness Academy students to be shortlisted in these categories is a great honour for them and a testament to both the skill and dedication of the students.

Joe Johns (North Site) was successful in his category, winning the Young Volunteer of the Year Award for 2011, following in Jordan McNamee's (2010) footsteps. His dedication to sports volunteering

and his hard work has now not only been recognised and rewarded by the staff at our school, but also by members of the sports council in the wider community.

Joe is thoroughly deserving of his Award. He gives back to young people and as a result has grown as a young man.

Well done to all the young sports stars.

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Time seems to fly by so quickly, and here we are again with another Christmas upon us.

As the Autumn Term comes towards a close, we can reflect again on good progress made by both the organisation and the staff and students within it who work so hard all of the time. This was fittingly recognised on 7th December when we had a visit from the 'Office of the Schools' Commissioner', a relatively new and very high level advisory body who work closely with education ministers. Two of their staff came to meet with senior leaders and students and also completed site tours whilst here. Their aim was to understand our journey and to see what they could take away with them about the strategies which led to our significant improvements in Year 2, and which may be of use to others.

The same day also saw our second Annual Awards Evening at Forum 28. Once again, this was a tremendous celebration of personal best and excellence in the fields of endeavour, progress and attainment. It also afforded us the opportunity to recognise other outstanding

contributions through the 'Special Awards'; more details of this fabulous event, alongside the names and pictures of the award winners, can be found on our website.

Our students have also been showing their generosity, as always, by giving so selflessly to make the festive period a little more enjoyable for those less fortunate than themselves. This has included: a 'Shoe Box Appeal', which involves filling a decorated shoe box (from a list of approved 'goodies') to send to children in developing countries; 'Sheltered Shopping for the Elderly', which involves organising and supporting shopping trips for the residents of sheltered accommodation to help them prepare for Christmas; and, finally, a 'Christmas Party' for the elderly involving a Christmas meal (prepared by our catering students), bingo and other entertainment in the form of a Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long led by members of the Academy choir. The students' efforts and the goodness that flows from them so willingly makes me feel so incredibly proud and honoured to be Principal of Furness Academy.

Finally, thanks are due to all our wonderfully supportive parents and our staff, for working in close partnership to help our students achieve and progress so quickly in the way that they have. On behalf of our Sponsors and Governors, therefore, I wish to thank all of you and wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and a new year which brings security, prosperity and good health.

Kindest regards,

Douglas Blackledge  
Principal



## RUSSIAN VISIT



Thursday 3rd November saw an exciting event for Furness Academy when 12 Russian students from The Moscow School of Economics visited the Performing Arts department. The students from Moscow were visiting the area to perform Hamlet in 'The Shakespeare Schools Festival' and they visited the Academy to see how Drama is taught in an English secondary school.

Students from GCSE Drama showed off their acting talents, performing a selection of work, and BTEC Acting and Music students were given the opportunity to ask the Russian students questions to find out more about their culture and the differences between Russian and English students. Mrs Vinogradova, an English teacher from the school, said, 'We have been so welcomed by everyone and have had such a wonderful day. All my students are really impressed both with the school and the pupils'.

# TOMLINSON HOUSE NEWS



Tomlinson students have continued to do their house proud! We won the Year 11 trampolining and Year 9 basketball on North site, and our Year 9 footballers on South site were only beaten in the final by a fluke Armstrong goal!

Over half of our students have already taken part in a House activity, which is fantastic. With lots of events coming up there should be something for everyone this year. Come on Tomlinson!

Mr Leece and Miss Rowland  
Tomlinson House Managers

We might not have won as many trophies as Ramsden or Kennedy but we've done well in enough competitions to have crept up the scoreboard – we're on the up.



# RAMSDEN HOUSE NEWS

We are so proud. Well done Ramsden students, we are currently in the lead for the House Championship Trophy, so keep up the excellent work everyone.

A BIG well done to all who took part in the following competitions:

- Christmas Cards
- Spelling Bee
- Go-Karting
- Trampolining
- Basketball
- Football
- Netball
- Tag Rugby
- Cross-Country

Ramsden House won the following events: Year 11 go-karting, Year 11 trampolining and Year 10 and Year 11 basketball. We were also runners up in the Year 7 tag rugby. Results are yet to be announced for the cross-country and swimming Gala. After speaking with some of you, we are

confident that we have won the cross-country.

We currently have 11 trophies with Ramsden ribbons on but we need lots more! It's your hard work and support in the events that make us the number one house and we need to keep the status of being number one.

There are in total 345 students in Ramsden House, of which an amazing 217 students have taken part in the house events. In total, we have an outstanding 62% of Ramsden pupils who have taken part in the House Competitions. **THIS IS FANTASTIC.**

## Attendance News

The really excellent news is that 7NR1 and 9NR1 and 10SR3 have won best attendance in the Academy during this half term; to celebrate this the Learning Groups were awarded with chocolate bars and stickers by Mrs Cook and Mr Smith.



## Trophies to be won next term for Ramsden in the competitions are:

- Noticeboards
- Year 10 and 11 netball
- Year 9 rugby and dance mats
- Year 7 and 8 girls' football
- Year 11 badminton
- All years' chess competition (and lots more still to come)

The trophy cabinets will look great with all our red Ramsden ribbons on them !

**To be the best you have to beat the rest, go ramsden because we remain the best.**

Finally we hope you all have a very Happy Christmas. Let's get 2012 off to a winning Ramsden start!

Mr Smith and Mrs Cook  
Ramsden House Managers

**House Leaders  
& Deputies  
North**



# KENNEDY HOUSE NEWS

KENNEDY continue to collect trophies!

The Championship Trophy is well within our reach and so congratulations to all students who took part and especially to those who won events.

So far this half-term we were overall winners in the Year 7 tag-rugby and Christmas card competition, with Rachael Woods' entry (7SY2) used for the official Academy card. Well done Rachael: more yellow ribbons in the trophy cabinet! The go-karting was a great success and was enjoyed by all participants and spectators.

Across both sites our participation percentage average is 55%. This is a brilliant start, so let's build on our success and keep raising the numbers who take part. A big thank you to our House Leaders and Deputies on both sites for all their hard work: we couldn't do without you!

We continually have GOOD attendance and Kennedy Learning Groups have won the attendance league on both sites several times. Well done on our high attendance. Remember we have to be in to win!

There are lots more events timetabled for the future and if there is something you are desperate to do, suggest it to House Leaders/Deputies or Mr Carton/Mrs Evans. We'll see what we can do.

Finally, Happy Christmas to everyone in Kennedy House, we hope you have a lovely time...see you in the New Year.

Thank you all.

Mr Carton and Mrs Evans  
Kennedy House Managers



**House Leaders  
& Deputies  
South**

# ARMSTRONG HOUSE NEWS

A massive well done and thank you to everyone who has taken part in house events this half term. The ones who have taken part have all put in 100% effort and the house is reaping the rewards. This half term we have won: Year 9 football on South Site; Year 10/11 basketball and Year 10/11 dance mats on North Site. This is fantastic! Everyone who has taken part, you have all done Armstrong House proud.

But we need everyone to be joining in, taking part and supporting our house if we are to win the house championship. So far this year only 35% of Armstrong students have taken part in house events. By the end of this year, we want that number to be 100%.

Attendance is a big part of the house competitions. We are doing really with an attendance of 93%, keep up the good work and let's maintain this level. Come on Armstrong, let's show the other houses how good we can be!

Keep up the hard work Armstrong! Remember, it's not over till the last competition and we're not even half way through the year yet. We can still win the House Championship if YOU believe we can!

Mrs Kell  
House Manager



# CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

On Monday December 5th, a group of year 11 students participated in a charity event with Furness Lions and Asda.

The evening involved the students working with residents of local care homes to assist them with their Christmas shopping. This required the students to use communication skills, empathy, listening and team-working skills.

It was a very enjoyable and successful evening. I would like to say a big thank you to all the students who took part for giving up their free time to help with the activity.

Mrs T Smith

