



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As we head into the second half of the Autumn Term there are many excellent things to report about our progress.

The summer period was exceptionally busy and saw a major programme of summer school events, interior and exterior redecoration and extensive ICT investment, all of which is aimed at providing for our students a safer, more welcoming and well-resourced environment for learning.

All of our ICT Suites have been upgraded with 600 new Desktops now in use across both sites. In addition, every curriculum area has taken delivery of a 'full class set' of iPad 2s which they are now starting to use to excite and inspire students to learn as they often do at home – through the medium of modern technologies.

Initial hiccups with the network upgrade, which was necessary to support this investment, have now been ironed out and students are benefiting from their new resources every day.



In January we are planning to install a brand new 3-D Learning Suite. This will allow students to put on their 'magic goggles' and view fantastic new educational software packages in 3-D, perhaps becoming a blood cell as they 'whizz around' the insides of the human body in a science lesson; or maybe they can take a walk through the 1st World War trenches in History, or perhaps stand inside an engine as they learn about the mechanical processes and design features developed by our leading engineers.

There are only five schools in the whole of the UK which currently have such a facility, but soon Furness Academy will be the sixth and the only one in the North of England and we're very excited about that.

I'm sure you will know by now that we made rapid and significant progress with our GCSE results in Year 2. A much improved 71% of our students gained five x A* - C passes and 49% of them did so with English and Mathematics included. This is a fantastic achievement by our students and I wish all of them well with their on-going education and training as they look to build successful careers and lives for themselves in the future.

Finally, our focus for this year is to build upon this progress, achieved on the back of really significant improvements in the quality of teaching and learning. We aim to add our new and innovative technologies to these improvements and in doing so start to really transform learning at the Academy to ensure it is the best it can possibly be.

Douglas Blackledge

STORYBIRD

Students in Miss Walker's Year 8 English group became published authors in the Summer Term. The class used the wonderful online site "Storybird" to produce beautifully illustrated and well-written picture books for younger children.

'Storybird' works with artists and illustrators to provide a wealth of images which students can select from. They can then add their own words to the pictures to produce brilliantly original books.

The books were shipped from America over the summer and were presented to the students – now all in Year 9 – in their Year Group assembly.

Mr Blackledge said, "The books are really excellent. My children love them all, especially Sigourney Iveson's 'This Leopard Does Not like Meat' about a leopard who changes his spots and becomes a vegetarian."

ARMSTRONG – WHAT A FANTASTIC TEAM!!

Well done Armstrong for a fantastic start, many of you have already taken part in House Competitions and proven what strong competitive young people you are. There have been happy times and sad times but throughout it all you have held your heads up high and been proud to represent your House.

As the half term approaches we can celebrate holding the South Site trophy for Year 8 Netball, North Site trophy for Year 7 Netball and the South Site trophy for Jenga and are proving to the other Houses that we are tough competition.

Keep it up Armstrong - we are so proud of you all, let's show the rest that we are the best house in Furness Academy!

Mrs Kell & Mrs McSweeney
Your very proud House Managers



SUMMER TRANSITION SCHOOL

During the summer holidays, a selected group of our New Year 7 students attended the 'Around the World in a Week' summer school, which enabled them to make new friends, take part in fun activities and build confidence before starting at Furness Academy in September.

The activities included Aboriginal art, South American drumming, a dream catcher workshop, African art and crafts, oriental cookery and a 'commedia dell'arte' drama/mask-making workshop. The week was rounded off with a performance for delighted parents and carers, after which a 'Grand European picnic' was enjoyed by all.

The week certainly achieved its objectives - having fun, making new friends, building confidence and allaying any fears about the transition to the Academy, and there are plans to repeat this annually, with a significant increase in places available.

Mrs Sayle



GO RAMSDEN

What a fantastic start to the year Ramsden House. We are so proud of you all for your effort and your commitment to the inter-house competitions. So far, we received the most entries for the Summer Holiday Competition across both sites (a big well done); Year 7 were the overall winners of the inter-house Netball coming first on South Site and second on North Site (an outstanding performance); Year 8 Football came third across both sites; and the Jenga competition was well represented by Ramsden pupils who came runners up overall. Well done and thank you to all who participated.

Keep up the good work Ramsden and please continue to take part in the competitions and continue to support your fellow students

if you are not taking part yourself. Support and cheer them on by attending.

Finally, big congratulations to 10SR1 (week ending 23/09/11) and 7NR1 (week ending 31/09/11) for the best attendance. Attendance is important; keep up the good work. A trophy will be presented at the end of the school year to the house with the best attendance.

Our target is to win the House Championship Trophy. Points from both sites are added together to give an overall total, the house with the most points at the end of the school year will win. The trophy will be presented on Sports Day and the results from Sports Day will be added.

GO RAMSDEN – we are the best so let's beat the rest.

Mrs Cook & Mr Smith

TOMLINSON ARE THE HOUSE TO WATCH

Tomlinson Students have already shown that we're the house to watch this year!

Our Year 8 teams won the inter-house football, winning outright on South, with the North site team coming a VERY close second to Kennedy. We've also shown that we're very skilled at Jenga!

Our South Site Year 8 Netballers were narrowly beaten and the Year 7 North site team only conceded goals in one match (to the team who went on to win!)

A big well done to everyone who has represented Tomlinson so far – keep it up!

Mr Leece & Ms Rowland



KENNEDY TRIUMPHS

Thanks to everyone who has taken part and supported events this half term.

Kennedy got off to a flying start by winning the first ever inter-house summer competition with Katie Read 11SY2 on South Site having the best overall entry. Since then we have won many more competitions and are well on our way to winning the House Championship Cup!

Well done to Year 7 and 8 girls Netball players, Year 8 boys Football players and all who took part in the Jenga, we played to an outstanding standard on both sites with trophies on display in Receptions for the winning teams.

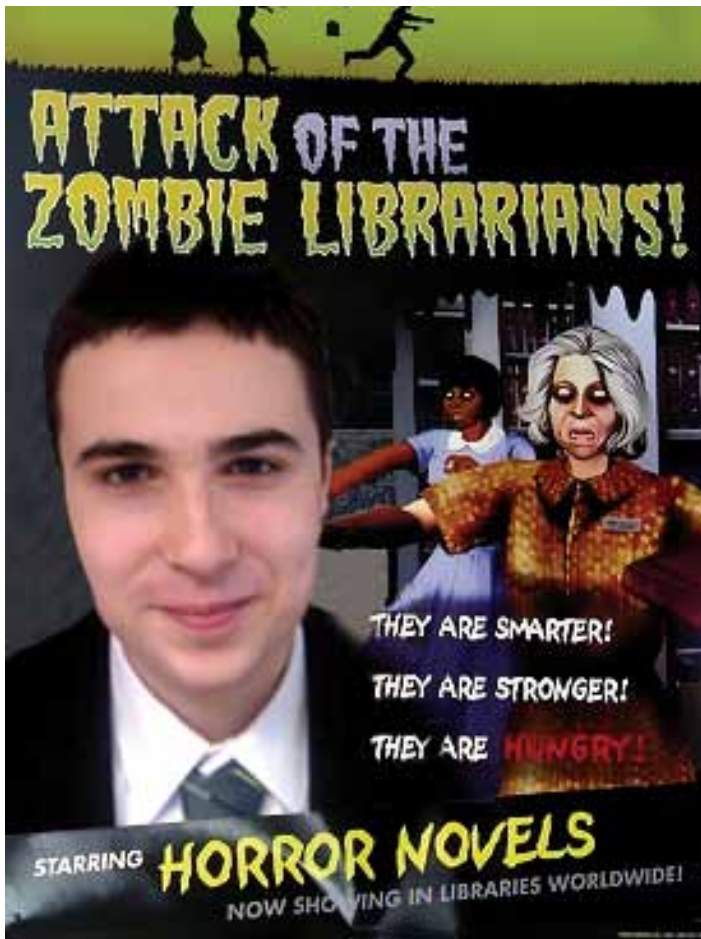
Keep up the good work, we have got off to a great start and we are very proud of your achievements!

Thanks
Mrs Evans & Mr Carton



OUR OPEN EVENINGS WERE HELD MID-SEPTEMBER AND WERE A GREAT SUCCESS





JORDAN BAKER... LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Jordan is a record breaker – he’s our longest serving library assistant and has been helping us since the Academy opened in September 2009.

Jordan helps out in the South Site library every break and lunchtime. He does a range of duties such as processing new books, scanning journals and checking in and out book loans. However Jordan’s real strengths are his IT skills and knowledge.

Jordan is always on hand to help other students with any of the Microsoft Office programs such as Word and Powerpoint. When the new iPods & iPads arrived in the Academy, Jordan provided a lot of practical help and advice to both staff and students about Wi-Fi connections and apps. Jordan always provides clear

explanations about the mysterious workings of IT and has made us more knowledgeable about all the different IT equipment we use in the Academy.

Over the summer holidays, Jordan took it upon himself to convert our ebooks into PDF format so that we could load them onto the library catalogue. This was a huge job, which saved us a lot of time and labour. It was also a very complicated task technically and not many people would have the knowledge and skills to do it.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Jordan personally on behalf of the Academy for all his hard work and generosity over the years.

Mrs Canning
Librarian



JOIN SCIENCE CLUB...IT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD

SOUTH SITE ON WEDNESDAY
AFTER SCHOOL IN ROOM 130
NORTH SITE ON MONDAY
AFTER SCHOOL IN ROOM C12

FORTHCOMING HOUSE COMPETITIONS

- Chess
- Year 11 Girls Netball
- Ks3 Five-a-Side Football
- Year 7 & 8 Handball
- Years 7 & 8 Swimming Gala
- Year 11 Trampolining
- Cooking Competition
- Whole School Cross Country