

# HEAD-ITORIAL



## "...but the greatest of these is charity"

On Friday we had our Children in Need fundraising. The fun theme for the day was pirates; and many pupils and lots of staff dressed up for the occasion. At both breaktime and lunchtime the school was buzzing with activities. Pupils were either leading or supporting events to raise money for good causes.

We occasionally have "mufti" days when pupils are invited to wear their own clothes to school rather than their uniform and they give a donation for the privilege. This money is always given to charity - often different year groups have their own selected causes. The risks of non-uniform days are well known: they can become more about fashion and competition, and can cause worries for pupils and their parents. We have found that the days work much better when the focus is on the good cause and the pupils have thought about the ways in which their donations are going to be used. A fun theme can also help.

It is a whole-school priority this year that we give pupils greater opportunity to think about, and do good for, those who are less fortunate than themselves. We kicked off the focus by asking Amy Lambert, a former pupil, to talk to year groups about her work in a Tanzanian orphanage. We want to encourage pupils to identify their own good causes as year groups or tutor groups. We also hope that as part of our new languages specialism we will develop a much greater sense of internationalism and help children to understand their fortune in growing up in a relatively privileged part of a relatively privileged country. It would be great if they, like Amy, develop a desire to make a difference.

The most important outcome of all our charitable activities is not the amount of money raised (although that can be a measure of the commitment of the pupils to a cause) but the greater understanding amongst our children of the nature and causes of the problems they are helping to address.

Gerard MacMahon  
Headteacher



**REMINDER:**  
The school will be  
closed to pupils and  
staff on Friday 4  
December



## STEP INTO SPORT YOUNG AMBASSADORS' CONFERENCE

At the beginning of October I travelled to Exeter Chief's Rugby Club for the annual Step Into Sport Young Ambassador Conference. As a Young Ambassador I am part of a team who are given the chance to go into schools in our area and talk about the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. We try to encourage an increase in participation in sport. There were over a hundred other Young Ambassadors in attendance from other schools in the South West of England, also some Olympians (including Gail Emms, a silver medal-winning Badminton player). They spoke to us about experiences of the Games and were all incredibly inspiring, talking us through the highs and lows of being in the Olympics.

I also learned more about my role as a Young Ambassador, and we were given inspiration videos which were used to help London get the Games in the first place. Hopefully I will get the chance to show some of these videos, and to talk more about the Olympics, in assemblies over the coming weeks.  
Rhys Merriman, 12ERA



What's  
my  
brain  
for?

On 30th November, Psychology Club will be open to anyone in Years 7-9. If you are interested in why we behave the way we do, come along to VI3 (3.15-4.15) in the Sixth Form block and take part in some activities and talks that try and uncover the answers! See Kieron German (13BKD) or Mrs Sparrow for further information. Hope to see you there!

Mrs Nicola Sparrow



Chris Harber in 11BAC recently competed in the National Counties Swimming Competition in Sheffield. He broke a record by swimming the 50m backstroke in 27.91 seconds!  
**Well done Chris, an outstanding achievement!**

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# Sheldon Standard

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**ABSOLUTELY  
AMAZING!!!  
£1700** *MAGNIFICENT!*  
**WITH STILL  
BUCKETS AND  
BUCKETS OF  
COINS TO BE  
COUNTED!**

Once again Sheldon pupils went for it in a big way and proved that they could raise a fantastic amount of money for Pudsey and Children in Need. The school was awash with Pirates - well done to the Sixth Form! Mr MacMahon, Mr Seeley, Mr Kerr, Mr Weller and other members of staff, Walked the Plank and were bombarded with wet sponges! (a great time was had by the pupils who threw the sponges in this!). Some other events were - a Battle of the Bands in the hall, many cake sales were held, a Year 7 Disco afterschool and a Mile of 20p and other coins lined the floor of the Sixth Form Study Area.

Many, many other events took place over the week and we say a great big "thank you" to everyone who donated, dressed up and generally helped us to reach what will be, we are sure, a huge total. We'll let you know how the total grows!

## NATIONAL POETRY DAY

This year's theme was HEROES and Sheldon celebrated by encouraging both staff and students to consider who their hero is. In English lessons, students looked closely at a poem "The Heroes" by the famous WW1 poet Siegfried Sassoon (see below), and they then had the opportunity to write a poem about their hero. Some of the poems will be on display in the English corridor, as well as a selection of Staff "Heroes".

Mr Nolan - Bruce Parry: "Never has someone done so much for indigenous right in Africa and South America"

Mr Lewis - Spiderman: "He understands that with great power comes great responsibility"

Mrs Hilton - Jamie Oliver: "He makes good food straight forward, easy and fun.. and he's down to earth!"

Mr Krispinussen - Nelson Mandela, Lance Armstrong

### The Hero

'Jack fell as he'd have wished,' the Mother said, and folded up the letter that she'd read.  
'The Colonel writes so nicely'. Something broke in the tired voice that quavered to a choke.  
She half looked up. 'We mothers are so proud of our dead solders'. Then her face was bowed.

Quietly the Brother Officer went out. He'd told the poor old dear some gallant lies  
That she would nourish all her days, no doubt. For while he coughed and mumbled, her weak eyes  
Had shone with gentle triumph, brimmed with joy, because he'd been so brave, her glorious boy.

He thought how 'Jack', cold-footed, useless swine, had panicked down the trench that night the mine  
Went up at Wicked Corner; how he'd tried to get sent home, and how, at last, he died,  
Blown to small bits. And no one seemed to care except that lonely woman with white hair.

Siegfried Sassoon



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