



Stafford
Sports College

THE
REFLECTION
AUTUMN 2013

Headteacher



This is the first year that our new Headteacher, Mrs Slack, has been here and we sent two reporters to ask for her thoughts about Stafford Sports College and to tell us about some of her favourite moments so far.

Mrs Slack said "I can honestly say that within five minutes I fell in love with the place... as soon as I came into the school, I just knew".

She went on to mention a particular memory; "When one student was in the process of coming into the school, I felt that he was a bit apprehensive and nervous. I remember that when he had his first lesson, the rest of the students spontaneously greeted him with such politeness and manners."

Finally Mrs Slack, looking to the future, explained her vision for Stafford Sports College; "I want this school to grow; not only locally but also nationally. I want it to be an outstanding school at the heart of our community"

- Reported by Danny Mills & Chelsea Jones

Trip to China

The trip was an exchange trip to a school in Guan Zhao; our students went to experience school life and the lifestyle of the children in China.

The education in China is incredibly different; the school day is much longer, fifteen hours a day, seven days a week! Which was a shock for our staff and students. There are lots of canteens around the school allowing meal times to have a minimum impact on study time.

Mrs Smith said she would take a group of students again if the opportunity arose; "Yes, it was a fabulous experience that I hope will motivate the students and get them to consider their lifestyles".

- Reported by Kristian Olley



Mr Taylor has very kindly provided a condensed diary extract of his bike ride to Russia over the summer holidays. Within the article he describes the events of his epic journey cycling from Staffordshire in the UK to Kaliningrad in Russia, crossing as many other countries as he could in the process.



"I'd spent four exhausting days in the Ukraine, but the soldier at the border to Poland was adamant - I couldn't cross here on a bicycle. He circled another checkpoint on my map, the only one where pedestrians and bicycles were allowed, and helpfully worked out that it was a mere 210 kilometers away in completely the wrong direction. I tried to explain, with the map and helpless gestures, that I was spending my school summer holiday trying to cycle to Russia, meandering through as many countries as possible, but he was unmoved. Cycling here had been hard; I was tired from picking a route through the vast potholes and brick-patched repairs like a kayaker through rapids and fighting for the occasional ribbon of smooth tarmac against rusty buses and ancient, overloaded trucks. I also discovered that the most depressing sound in cycling was the clatter of approaching hooves as yet another one-horse cart overtook me on a hill. Of course, signposts and place names were confusing too, and navigation difficult, because of the Cyrillic alphabet.

Travel



Explore

I'd come to the eastern side of Europe deliberately, to stretch my comfort zone and to see a bit of the world that was new to me...Despite being fifty-six, and considerably overweight, I knew I could cycle all day, covering a hundred miles if necessary, before finding somewhere to sleep. The destination target this year was Kaliningrad, in the separate bit of Russia that is part of the Baltic States. I'd always been fascinated by Euler's mathematical theory based on the Bridges of Konigsberg - now called Kaliningrad - and it seemed like a reasonable idea to cycle there and ride over a couple of the old ones which remain. ...I'm a lucky guy, not only because my amazing wife lets me get away on these periodic jaunts but because I live in a time and in a place where such travel is possible.

- Reported by Mikey Collins

Knowledge

ENGLISH

On 28th November, group 7G went on an English class trip to the Catalyst Museum in Widnes as part of their 'Spy Who Learned English' scheme of work. During a specially designed workshop, students discovered how to mould plastics and investigated memory metals as well as getting hands on with some useful spy equipment such as infrared cameras, UV lights and magnets.

"The class had a great time," explained English teacher, Mrs Barlow. "There were some very innovative ideas from the students of how they could use the things they learned about in the spy world such as using different colour gases as a warning system and plastics to make impressions of keys."

Mrs Barlow also explained how this trip was important for other reasons: "It is important to engage students from and nurture their imaginations. It also forms a cross-curricular link with Science as well as providing the students with a chance to get hands on and discover things for themselves. This will then allow them to write descriptively and imaginatively about their experience. Thank you very much to all the staff at the Catalyst Museum for making the trip such a fun, informative and memorable day."

Some of our students had a look at themselves through an infrared camera and thought of some cunning ways to catch villains!



SCIENCE

Students are learning about the structure of atoms and how they differ in structure and how the periodic table affects reactivity of metals and non-metals. In Year 7 Biology, they have been learning about reproduction in plants and animals. They have also dissected flowers to identify the male and female



reproductive organs. In physics, many students enjoy the unit based on astronomy, covering motion, forces and speed. The first group of "triple science" students will soon have their learning under way. After school revision, there will be a buffet night from 5.00pm until 7.30pm for GCSE students to prepare for their mock exams.

- Reported by Christopher Davies, Jordan Phillpotts & Declan Broughton

Learning

Creative

ART

Stafford Sports College has joined 70 other schools in decorating a Christmas tree at St Mary's Church, the display is opened to the public at a ceremony on Wednesday 4th December.

Our Year 9 art students have also been given the opportunity to display their work on at a public exhibition at St Mary's Church, commemorating the Holocaust. The exhibition itself takes place in January 2014.

Year 12 students studying A level art will be travelling to Birmingham University in the New Year to study jewellery and silversmithing.

- Reported by Mikey Collins

HISTORY

Mr Wibberley tells us how History can improve students study skills;

- Students have to be organised and think clearly when gathering evidence from different sources.
- Students can identify detail and important evidence.
- Students learn how to recognise when evidence/information is biased .
- Students will master the art of constructing the evidence collected to aid them in delivery of the facts that support their topic or point of view.

- Reported by Joseph Widgery

GEOGRAPHY

Year Y9 students have been studying climate and change. A trip to Cannock Chase collecting samples was not only a great day out but also gave the group a chance to discuss ideas and to experience the great outdoors, in support of their argument about climate change .



- Reported by Regan Whittaker and Kieran Lake

MEDIA

Why choose Media?

"There are lots of journalism and media techniques that we learn about in Sixth Form including the opportunities to use cameras, make music videos, produce magazines as well as analysis of film posters and trailers. Media allows students to work individually and as part of a team on projects. It's a great way to raise confidence."

- Reported by Luke Taylor

Perform

PERFORMING ARTS

Year 7 groups studying Opening Minds have been working hard creating items to sell at this years Christmas Fair, parents and carers are invited to come along on Tuesday 17th December.

Students of all ages have been practicing hard in readiness for the annual Stafford Sports College Christmas Concert which will be on Wednesday 18th December. The concert promises to entertain and tickets are available from the school.

Performing Arts students from Years 10 and 11 are looking forward to their London Theatre Weekend in April next year. The weekend is packed full of some great sight-seeing opportunities as well as tickets to one of the best West End musicals 'Billy Elliott'.

PRIMARY DRAMA

Students in Year 6 from the local primary schools have been taking part in drama and tennis sessions at Stafford Sports College this term and we plan to offer these sessions to year 5 next year in the Spring term.

Children have been working together on short plays in drama and developing their tennis skills at our Baseline Tennis Centre.



News

Christmas Fair and Christmas Concert

This year the annual Stafford Sports College Christmas Concert will take place on **Wednesday 18th December**. Tickets are available from school, please call us on 01785 258383 for more information. Any students interested in being involved or helping in some way, should speak to Mrs Mandley.

NEC Sixth Form Trip

Year 13 students got an insight into apprenticeships, further study and employment as a whole when they visited the NEC showcasing everything from hairdressing to mechanics and cookery.

After School Clubs and Revision Sessions

There are many lunchtime and after school activities, clubs and revision sessions that students in all year groups can join. Copies of the Extra Activities Programme can be found all over the school and on the school website.

Holidays and Medical Appointments

Parents are reminded that due to changes in attendance regulations holidays requested during term time will not be permitted. Unless it is an emergency, any medical appointments for students should take place before or after school or during the holidays. Thank you for your support with this.

BASELINE TENNIS CENTRE @ STAFFORD SPORTS COLLEGE



Opened in September 2010 by Greg Rusedski and the Chief Executive Officer of the Lawn Tennis Association, Roger Draper, the Baseline Tennis Centre continues to prove itself as a valuable asset to the school and the wider community. Offering a full coaching programme and state of the art facilities for members and pay & play customers, the centre is a big hit with tennis lovers across Staffordshire. Boasting 3 indoor courts the centre hosts county tennis competitions, junior competitions, school events, university tennis and coaching courses.

Courts are available at various times throughout the week; usually between 9.00am and 3.00pm Monday to Friday. Details of fixtures and prices can be found at www.baselinestafford.com.

The centre also offers a full racquet stringing and re-gripping service which is accessible to both members and non-members.

- Reported by Joshua Kerr

Play

Secure

SAFER SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

The Safer Schools Partnership initiative has been in place across Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent for a number of years.

Overall the initiatives aim is to maintain safe environments for schools allowing students to focus on what matters; their education.

PC Lovatt works with us here at Stafford Sports College and is a valued member of staff. Her work to raise awareness with students is invaluable and her role has forged a successful line of communication and respect across the school. Her presence around school has changed students opinions of the police.



PC Lovatt with Director of Behaviour, Safety and Partnerships at Stafford Sports College, Mr Manfredi.

I'd like to wish every one of our students and all of their families a very **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year** on behalf of all of the staff at Stafford Sports College.
Mrs Jude Slack, Headteacher

EXTRA ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME

Autumn 2013

English Department		
LUNCH	KS3 Creative Writing	Wednesday (Blue Week)
	KS3 BBC School Report	Wednesday (Red Week)
	Y11 Speaking & Listening Booster	Wednesday
AFTER SCHOOL	Y11 Revision- Foundation	Wednesday 3pm - 4pm
	Y11 Revision (Eng Lang Resit)	Wednesday 3pm - 4pm
Maths Department		
LUNCH	KS3 Homework Booster	Thursday
AFTER SCHOOL	Y9/Y10 GCSE Foundation Revision	Thursday 3pm - 4pm
	Y11 GCSE Foundation Revision	Thursday 3pm - 4pm
	Y10/Y11 GCSE Higher Revision`	Thursday 3pm - 4pm
	KS3 Homework Booster	Thursday 3pm - 4pm
Science Department		
AFTER SCHOOL	Y11 Science Plus	Wednesday 3pm - 4pm
	Y10 Science Plus	Thursday 3pm - 4pm
	KS3 Science Plus	Friday 3pm - 4pm
Design Technology Department		
AFTER SCHOOL	Y10 Graphic Products Booster	Monday 3pm - 4pm (Red Week)
	Y10 Food Technology Booster	Wednesday 3pm - 4pm (Red Week)
	Y11 Graphic Products Booster	Thursday 3pm - 4pm (Red Week)
Creative Arts Department		
LUNCH	Keyboard Club	Monday to Thursday
	KS4 Art	Monday and Thursday
	KS3 Art	Tuesday and Wednesday
	Band	Wednesday
	KS4 Expressive Arts Booster	Monday to Thursday (A6)
AFTER SCHOOL	Y11 GCSE Booster	Thursday 3pm - 4pm
PE Department		
LUNCH	Table Tennis	Monday to Friday
	Y7/Y8/Y9 Football	Monday
	Badminton	Tuesday
	Basketball	Wednesday
	Y10/Y11 Football	Thursday
	Badminton	Friday
AFTER SCHOOL	Fitness	Monday
	Tennis	Tuesday and Wednesday
	Netball	Wednesday
	Y7-Y11 Football (boys & girls)	Thursday
Humanities Department		
AFTER SCHOOL	GCSE Geography Revision	Monday 3pm - 4pm
	GCSE History Revision	Wednesday 3pm - 4pm
HOMEWORK CLUB - LIBRARY - Monday to Thursday 3pm - 4pm		