



# CARRE'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER



Issue 25

February 2006

## Inside this issue:

## Foreword by Mike Reading - Headteacher

<i>Student Information</i>	2
<i>School Nurse Drop in</i>	2
<i>Outstanding Student Achievements</i>	2
<i>Annual Speech Evening and Prizegiving</i>	3
<i>Student Support Asst.</i>	3
<i>Bursaries for sportsmen</i>	4
<i>Key Stage 3 Updates</i>	5
<i>Carre's Student Fails Robber</i>	6
<i>Johnny and the Dead</i>	6
<i>Fundraising at Carre's</i>	6
<i>Vienna Trip 2006</i>	7
<i>Messages from office</i>	8
<i>Catering Dept News</i>	8

## Attachments:

Library Newsletter  
Student Contact Details  
PTFA News  
List of Lost Property

This has been a term like no other in recent years. Following the Christmas break we had to come to terms with the tragic circumstances of the death of Andrew Rees in Year 7. We have a commitment to support his brother, David, who remains at the school in Year 10. Every bereavement is filled with sorrow and, although all of us who have been bereaved know of the pain that is experienced, few can imagine the emotions resulting from the complexity of the circumstances that face those closest to the Rees family.

I know that David, together with Beryl and Peter Marsh, Andrew and David's grandparents, would wish to thank the many who have expressed their condolences and desire to support through the future.

I am sure that we all will understand David's wish to continue with the greatest sense of normality at school. I can assure you that he has the strong support of close family and friends as well as the school community.

In any community, there are a number of people who miss loved ones and friends, especially at the anniversaries of special times, yet we have little physical provision at the current time. Following meetings with Andrew's form, 7L, and chatting to others, I should wish to launch over the next three months, a fund to create a quiet space within the school grounds. This will be a garden where any student may spend time in reflection and thought. We would wish this to be a place that belongs to us all that remember both those whom we all know, such as Andrew, but also to be a special place to remember those whose memories are more specific to the individual. If you wish to support the project, I should be pleased to accept any donations, addressing the donation to the School Bursar. Please mark your envelope "The Garden Project".

May I take this opportunity to also introduce you to three recent appointments to the school. On 9 and 10 February we interviewed for the re-establishing of the post of Deputy Headteacher. For two years we have operated without this position to afford the associated costs of dramatic increases in the ICT provision within the school. Mrs Yvonne Green has been appointed to the post. Mrs Green is currently employed as an Advanced Skills Teacher and Assistant Headteacher at Boston High School. A number of students may remember her as a member of the Carre's History Department before she was promoted to The Priory LSST and then to Boston. We look forward to welcoming her after the Easter holiday.

Following Mike Swaby's impeccable oversight of the school's finances and site, he is moving to part-time employment within Carre's to assist in the settling in of the new Bursar who was appointed recently. Mrs Val Andrew joins Carre's in March with experience in both the primary and secondary environment of Grantham.

To support students and teachers with responsibilities within the school, Mrs Pam Watson will join us as Student Support Assistant after the February holiday. Mrs Watson is currently employed in a similar role in a school in North East Lincolnshire.

All three of these positions reflect the important changes to staffing that were agreed with the Governing Body as a result of a nationwide examination of school staffing structures. We took the opportunity to make changes to support your son even more richly than the structure that had received warm praise.

Following our investment in a new IT management tool, Year 11 reports have been written using this new system. We are planning further improvements, but I would be particularly interested to hear of your impressions.

May I finally add my thanks to parents who passed on personal encouragement to me during the term. As ever, please feel free to use any method that suits you to inform me of your concerns. Letters can be addressed to the school or through my personal email, [mike.reading@carres.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:mike.reading@carres.lincs.sch.uk).

## Mrs Hill

Following careful consideration, Mrs Julie Hill has decided to resign from her position of Teacher at this school due to personal reasons. This took effect on 31.12.2005. In consultation with the LEA, this has been accepted by the Governors, who would like to wish Mrs Hill well for the future.

# Student Information - Mr J Kyte, Assistant Headteacher

## Mobile Phones

- Are allowed in School, but are the student's responsibility
- Can only be used at breaktimes and lunchtimes - not between lessons
- At all other times mobile phones must be switched off
- Inappropriate use of mobile phones, i.e. texting/photos for bullying purposes, will lead to confiscation and implementation of bullying procedures
- Penalties: First time - confiscated: to be collected at 3 45 from school office  
Second and subsequent times - confiscated: parents to collect



## MP3 Players

- Allowed in school, but are the student's responsibility
- Can only be used at breaktimes and lunchtimes - not between lessons
- Only one ear plug in at a time
- Can be used in lessons, but **only** at the discretion of the teacher
- Can be used in private study time in the Library, provided it does not disturb other students and staff, and subject to the third item above concerning one ear.
- Penalties: First time - confiscated: to be collected at 3 45 from school office  
Second and subsequent times - confiscated: parents to collect

## PSP (Play Station Portable) and Nintendo Dual Screen

- **Not allowed in school**, because they interfere with school wireless network
- Penalties: First time - confiscated: to be collected at 3 45 from school office  
Second and subsequent times - confiscated: parents to collect

# School Nurse Drop in

We all know that it is said your school days are the happiest days of your life, but that doesn't mean you don't have all sorts of different worries and problems. These may include concerns about bullying, parents arguing or separating, smoking, alcohol and/or drug use, relationship difficulties ( including the need for contraceptive advice ), not fitting in or feeling unhappy to name just a few.

It may be difficult to know who you can talk to about these. Your school nurse is in school on a **Tuesday lunchtime** to offer you confidential support and advice. No appointment is needed, just drop in to see me. The sessions will be held in Mr Kyte's office in the school house.

Kathy Davey - School Nurse

# Outstanding Student Achievements

**Russell Wright - 11Y** has recently won the 'Junior Athletics Volunteer' for 2005. Russell was given this award for volunteering at athletics competitions at both Grantham and Boston for Lincolnshire League competitions and Amateur Athletics Association leagues. Russell also won the award for assisting Mary Johnson, (Athletics Coach based at Carre's) with her coaching sessions and several of her athletics schemes during school holidays. Well done Russell.

**Matthew Bee - 7B** recently completed in the Anglian Schools Cross Country Championships and qualified for the National Schools. The school has only had one other boy who has got this far in 40 years!

A fantastic achievement Matt, well done indeed.



**Liam Earth - 11Z** and his sister Lauren struck gold in the British Tae Kwon-do Championships at the Indoor Ice Arena in Coventry, when more than 1600 competitors took part from all over the country. Liam and Lauren, who were representing the Bourne based Annabel Murcott School of Tae Kwon-do, both won Gold Medals. More recently Liam took part in the South Midlands Championships and competed in the Men's Division. This did not faze him at all and he won Gold. Congratulations and well done to Liam and his sister.

## Annual Speech Evening and Prizegiving

The school held its annual Speech Day and Prizegiving on Thursday 15 December. Approximately 130 prizes were awarded to students by Mr M Brealey QC, a former student of Carre's. In his speech Mr Reading said *"The enthusiasm of the students for the school, and everything that goes on here, is almost tangible, and hardly any parent leaves unimpressed. The students' willingness to make the most of opportunities here speaks volumes."* *"I believe the ethos of such a school as Carre's is worth defending and celebrating. We are not insisting we are better than every other school; we are celebrating our part in the diversity of schools."* Mr Reading also said *"The staff are among the most committed, loyal and professional I have come across. They give their time, not only to teaching, preparing lessons and marking, but also to moral support and guidance, to extra help outside lessons, and the vast range of extra-curricular activities."*

A full list of prize winners is available at the school office.

Some of the Carre's Prize winners - photo courtesy of Sleaford Standard

## Student Support Assistant

We are very pleased to be welcoming a new member of staff to the pastoral team at Carre's. As part of the recent re-structuring, a new post has been created – Student Support Assistant. Interviews took place at the end of January and Mrs Pamela Watson was appointed.

Mrs Watson hopes to join us on 27 February and will bring with her a wealth of experience in supporting young people within a school context. She is currently working in a school in N E Lincolnshire.

Mrs Watson will be working alongside the four Key Stage Managers and the Assistant Head, Mr Kyte, to support our students in achieving their full potential. As a non-teaching member of staff, Ms Watson will be available to offer support to students throughout the school day as well as provide administrative support to the Key Stage Managers.

# Bursaries for elite Sportsmen

Carre's Grammar School recently made life a little bit easier for nine of our elite individual sportsmen. As part of the Sports College funding, through the Youth Sport Trust, a bursary of £60 was given to support the students' training, competing or equipment costs.

The nine boys receiving the bursary are all exceptional talents in their field and show great promise for the future.

- **Matthew Newton** is the British Junior Champion at Fly Fishing and will be team captain for the World Championships in Portugal next year.
- **Liam Earth** is now the British Champion at Tae-Kwon-Do in his age group.
- **James Wathen** came third in the Under 13 National Bi-athlon.
- **James Shacklock** is in the top 5 national tennis rankings in his age group.
- **Robert McDonald** was joint 18<sup>th</sup> in his age group at the European Speed Skating Championships.
- **Patrick Owen** came 43<sup>rd</sup> in the Great Britain 10-mile cycling time trial (only 6 months after taking up the sport!)
- **Tom Bond** came 20<sup>th</sup> in the Under 13 section of the British Indoor Rowing Championships 2005.
- **Sam Wright** is a swimmer for the Midlands Region.
- **Sam Mason** came 9<sup>th</sup> in the England Under 16 Golf Championships, when he was 11! He has also played in the Nick Faldo Series.

**Congratulations to them and best wishes for their future sporting careers, look out for them in 2012!**



Our sportsmen receiving their Bursaries from the Headteacher

# Key Stage 3 Updates

## Progress Grades

Several parents have requested clarification regarding the target grades that have been set for the students in each subject. For Key Stage 3 students (Years 7-9) the grade represents the National Curriculum level each student is expected to reach by the end of Year 9. The national average for achievement at the end of Year 9 is Level 5. However, in the context of a selective grammar school, the average achievement for most students is Level 6. Level 7 and 8 therefore represent an above average achievement. Each level is subdivided into a, b and c, with c being within the lower range of achievement for each level. We would expect to review targets as the students progress through the key stage.

We plan to review the new system towards the end of the first annual cycle and expect to involve parents in this process. Mr John Garnett is currently chairing the working party on Progress Grades.

## Uniform

We would like to thank parents for their support in reinforcing our expectations with regard to our dress code. The boys responded with a positive spirit of co-operation and some even underwent transformations that caused us to wonder if new boys had joined our ranks!

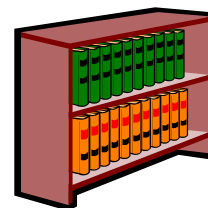
## Remember a Star with a Star

The Year 7 Christmas charity project offered fellow students the opportunity to purchase a star to hang on our Christmas tree in memory of a loved one. They faithfully organised themselves into teams to man the foyer during the last two weeks of term and raised £65 for the Gifts hospice in Grantham. Our tree was kindly donated by Gifts after their carol service at St Denys'.  
(for more fundraising see page 6)



## Use of Library After School

In order to enable the cleaning staff to clean the library, students should not be in the library after 5pm. Students using the library after school should sign-in on arrival and sign-out when they leave. Students should only be using the library for school-related work or research.



The library will not be available after school on a Friday. We reserve the right to close the library after school when we are unable to provide supervision and to eject any student making inappropriate use of the facility.



On Wednesday 3 May at 11 20 am Year 7 and 8 will be involved in recording a backing chant for a charity pop single being released in June to celebrate the England team's involvement in the forthcoming World Cup tournament. The 240 students will perform in unison a football chant which will then be used on the World Cup single. The chant consists of the word 'EASY' being repeated over and over again and has been made hugely popular by the Sky sports show, Soccer AM.

The song, entitled "We are England" has been written and recorded by the young English pop band, "Ricky" who have recently enjoyed chart success with their debut single, "Stop Knocking The Walls Down".

So far 83 schools have been recorded and "Ricky" are aiming to break the Guinness World Record for the greatest number of voices ever used on a hit single. Profits are being donated to the NSPCC Children's charity.

Mrs R Brooks - Head of KS3



# Carre's Student Foils Robber

Carre's 6th Former, Matt Guthrie has recently been presented with a Young People of Courage Award by Lincolnshire County Council.

Matt bravely chased a thief who had snatched an elderly lady's handbag. When the robber realised he was being pursued he dropped the bag and made his escape. Matt duly returned the bag to its owner.

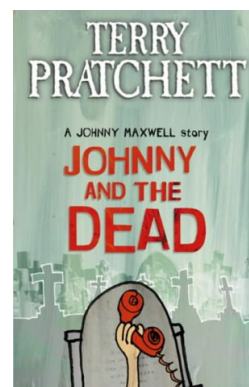
Well done Matt, we are very proud of your public spirited attitude and you are a credit to the school.

# Johnny and the Dead

Unfortunately due to Mr Harding's absence from school due to illness, the school play has had to be postponed.

The play, which was due to take place on 8, 9, and 10 February, will now be held on **22, 23 and 24 March**.

Details will be announced in the near future regarding ticket prices and performance times.



# Fundraising at Carre's



A collection at the school Carol Service held at St Denys Church in December raised £76.90 for Unicef.

The Christmas Message board, organised by Charlotte Williamson raised £80 for **World Vision**.

This bought 2 sets of PE kits; a productive pupil kit and an orphan and vulnerable child kit.



A total of £51.60 was raised by Mrs Hill for the sale of the school magazine during her time at Carre's. Mrs Hill has now sadly left the school, and as no-one has taken over the production of the school magazine at this time, it was felt fitting that the proceeds so far be donated to **Cancer Research UK**. Mrs Hill thanked everyone who took part and anyone who purchased a copy of the magazine. We wish her all the best for the future.

**William Wade - L62**

(see also page 5 for more fund raising)

# Vienna - December 2005

The first flight to Dusseldorf went quite well and everyone was very excited, but still not totally awake from the early start. We all enjoyed our first taste of foreign soil when we landed and it didn't take long for some people to get totally lost. It wasn't long until our final flight took us to Vienna, where it was raining rather heavily, but after a short while this turned to quite heavy snow. We were waiting for a while to get our bags, but finally got them and made our way to the coach which would take us to the hotel. The hotel was very nice and we got settled into our rooms before we made our way down to the restaurant for dinner. Everyone enjoyed eating at the restaurant and the staff were very friendly, but we were all eager to get off to bed after a long day of travelling.

The next day we were straight out and onto the metro, armed with our packed lunches and plenty of money! First of all we went to the Stefansdom, the main cathedral in Vienna. After this we went to the war museum, which was probably the best museum of them all. While we were there we saw the car that Franz Ferdinand was assassinated in and also a shell bigger than Tom Pearce (which is not hard if you think about it!)

After dinner we went to the "Haus Der Musik" which was a totally interactive museum where you could do anything from creating your own masterpiece by rolling a dice, to conducting an orchestra. On our second full day in Vienna we visited the Belvedere museum and spent a while taking one of the tours around the museum. After this we went for a ride on the Prater wheel, which was really good because you could see a lot of the city and it looked lovely in the snow. Later on we went to see a screening of 'The Third Man', which contains a scene set in the Prater Wheel. On our final day in Vienna we visited the Christmas market, where most people bought Santa hats and bouncy balls to keep themselves occupied for weeks to come. After that it was time to go home.

The flights home went very well and everyone was pretty much asleep on the coach. All in all it was an enjoyable experience and everyone had a great time.

## James Clark & Nathan Gunning, 9X

(This extra-curricular visit was organised by the Modern Foreign Languages Department and was open to all boys studying German. We hope to organise a visit for our Hispanists in March 2007)



*Prater Wheel*



*Whole group in grounds of Art Museum*



*Assassination car*



# Messages from the Office

## Dates for Your Diary

**15.02 - 6pm** - Yr 12 Parents' Eve  
**16.2 - midnight** Ski Trip Departs returns **26.2**  
**17.2 - 10 to 11am** - European Theatre Yr 9 at St George's  
**17.2 to 24.2** - School holiday  
**27.2 - 4 30 & 7pm** - Yr 9 Options Eve  
**2.3 - 4 30pm** - Yr 8 Parents' Evening  
**6.3** - House Music Auditions Week  
**7.3** - Yr 9 Careers morning  
**9.3** - Holocaust Exhibition - 10W/10X  
**13.3** - Holocaust Exhibition - 10Y/10Z  
**14.3 - 4 30 pm** - Yr 9 Parents' Evening  
**20.3 - 7 30pm** A Level Music Recital - St Denys  
**21.3** - visit to Southwell Workhouse - Yr12  
**22.3 - 24.3 - 7pm** - School Play  
**27.3** - House Music final

## Reporting Absences from School.

As the school is currently in the grip of a nasty virus with lots of sick boys, it is imperative that the office is informed on the first day of any absence. We do not expect you to phone every day, but if your son is going to be off school for several days, perhaps you could keep us informed by phoning every other day.



**Lost Property.** We have accumulated a large amount of lost property again (please see attached list). If you think any of it may belong to you, please contact the school office.

**Student Contact Details.** Please could the attached form be completed and returned to the school office as soon as possible. This will enable us to update any change of contact details on our records. Alternatively, you would email any changes through to us.

# Catering Department News

You may have noticed a few changes that have taken place in the canteen over the past few weeks. In my role of Catering Manager, I am responsible for maintaining a healthy eating policy and working within Government guidelines. Therefore all canned drinks will now be of the 'zero sugar' variety. Chocolates and crisps at morning break will only be available two or three mornings a week and over the coming weeks will be phased out altogether.

We will still have on offer at morning break:

- Bacon/sausage bap
- Sausage roll
- Homemade soup and bread roll
- Croissants
- Fresh fruit and fresh fruit

salad pots

- Cheese and crackers
- Cereal Bars
- Good selection of healthy drinks

I would be grateful for some feedback on whether you would like variety packs of breakfast cereal, i.e. Weetabix, Cornflakes etc, to be available at morning break. Please let me know.

Unfortunately, there will be a very necessary price increase on a whole variety of foods and drinks. This is to cover ever-increasing food costs. However, the canteen still offers very good value for money, with a wide selection of freshly homemade dishes. Prices will be displayed on the menu board, drinks cabinet etc.

And finally a big moan! **Please**

**could all students read the menu board before they get to the servery.** All the information needed is written on the board daily and it is very time consuming to have to explain to the many individual students the prices etc, plus it holds up the queue.

Your co-operation is appreciated.

Jane Thatcher -  
Catering Manager

