

November 2006

High Performance

The Performing Arts Newsletter of Henley High School



Happy Birthday to Us!

Welcome to the second edition of the High Performance newsletter, the place to read about Performing Arts at Henley High.

We would like to welcome all our new Year 7's and look forward to sharing the many new talents they bring to our Performing Arts Dept.

We have now celebrated our first birthday as a

Performing Arts College and were pleased to hear people's views on what effects the specialization, in its first year, has had on the school. We would like to share these views with you on p2.

We start our second year with many renewed opportunities for our students, a great amount of

energy and enthusiasm and, of course our most important asset..... a wealth of talent.



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A warm welcome to...

We would like to introduce you to new members of our team..

Michael Irvine, our new Assistant Headteacher, who also leads our

Specialist Bid. Hayley Pope, who has been appointed to the post of Community Arts Leader and Andy Hoskins who is our new stage technician.

Plus, our new Head of Drama/Expressive Arts, Matt McCarthy, will be joining us at Easter. Congratulations to all!

ARTS FOR EVERYONE—Chairman of the Governor’s Report

A meeting was called to explore the idea of a Henley In Arden Community Arts Group which took place on Wednesday 7th June 2006 at 7.00pm. It was attended by 18 interested people representing a wide age range and a variety of performance/community interests. We felt that music was under represented and are anxious to hear from anyone with an enthusiasm for promoting performance in music of all kinds. We set up three working parties.

The first group is called VISION. It will meet to create a picture of the future and promote aims and plans. The second group RULES will create the organization which will deliver our VISION. The third group YOUTH will capitalize on the interest of young people who attended the meeting to devise some immediate events to launch the group.

The inaugural meeting will take place on 30th November. This has been delayed because of the positive intervention of the Warwickshire County Council bringing the confident hope of substantial council funds being put into the project. It is possible that at this meeting we will be in a position to announce the start date for the building of our state of the art performing arts centre of the school and the local community of Henley and surrounding districts. Please contact us if you are interested in being part of this exciting venture. (more details of this meeting on p4).

Community news...

Our new Community Arts Leader, Hayley Pope, will be joining us shortly and she will be working very closely with the wider community of Henley. Hayley has three initiatives which she will be concentrating on over her first few months at Henley High. The first is to focus on the elder community within the area. This will involve some play reading which will gradually move in to a play writing project. At the same time, she will be working with our feeder Primary’s incorporating story telling with the young pupils and pageantry. Hayley is also very keen to work on plans to launch a Henley Film Festival.

What are the benefits of the school’s specialization?

Here are some of the things people say...

Profile of arts within the whole school is raised.

More vulnerable pupils, especially boys, are becoming involved. It has offered children another way to express their talents and so improve self esteem...

Links within the wider community are being developed.

Opportunities have been introduced to work with

pre-school children and children at our feeder primary schools through music and dance workshops..

New music equipment to improve the quality of learning..

Sharing expertise with pre-school children and children at our feeder primary schools through music and dance workshops..

Better provision for Gifted and Talented through Dance and Arts Leaders awards...

Dance

Following the outstanding success of the Boys2Dance venture in the summer this term started with a new project 'Armed and Dangerous'. It was organised by the Being-frank Physical Theatre in conjunction with the Performing Arts Service at City College in Coventry. After an initial workshop in school five boys were selected to

proceed to the next stage which involved a week of intensive rehearsals with the Coventry based theatre Company in preparation for a stunning



performance which took place at the Bridge House Theatre in Warwick.

All the boys who took part in this, and the initial workshops in school,

were offered the opportunity to attend weekly rehearsals with the same Coventry Boys Youth Dance Company, 'Alpha'. If you would like more information about this opportunity please contact the school.

The five boys who represented Henley High were

Alex Biles
Nick Bamford
Francois Geddes
Simon Ravenhill
Jack Dargov

Congratulations and well done to them all.

The Theatre Laboratory

For our drama enthusiasts the Henley Theatre Laboratory has been launched this month. These drama workshops are for 11-18 year olds from within school and the wider community. Popular local drama practitioner Catriona McDonald runs

this series of workshops which take place on a Tuesday evening between 6.30pm-8.30pm in the Drama Studio in school.

Pupils have really enjoyed the first few weeks of the Lab and are looking forward to their

performance in December which will provide the finale to this series of exciting workshops.

More news of this to follow..

For further information about Alpha Dance, Theatre Laboratory or Girls Dance please contact the school

Music



The music room has undergone a complete refurbishment. Fifteen new computers and an interactive white board have been installed meaning that our pupils can now be more involved in music technology. We have recently launched a young orchestra with three of

our feeder primary schools, Henley Primary, Wootton Waven and Tanworth in Arden Primary who meet weekly—we are planning that more will join us. We would also like to announce the introduction of a School Choir who meet Friday lunchtimes in the music room.

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Calling all young actors and technicians...

National Youth Theatre auditions

The NYT can offer many exciting opportunities to learn new skills, develop your own talents and to have great fun. Local workshop auditions are being held for both Actors and Technicians between the ages of 13 and 21. Get to work with some of the best professional writers, directors, designers and technicians from the UK Theatre Industry. For more information and to apply online:

www.nyt.org.uk



Henley Drama Society
present their festive production

CHRISTMAS

CRACKERS

with mulled wine and mince pies
Sat 16th December in the Memorial Hall
www.hads.org.uk

The next meeting of the
Community Arts Focus Group

will take place on

Thursday 30th November

7.30pm

at Henley High School

Please come along, we'd love to see you there.

more info from:

slewis@4108.wgfl.net or tim@timsturges.com

or telephone Sonia Lewis in the School Office

What's On...

Girls Dance takes place in school on a Tuesday afternoon 3.15pm–4.30pm. This is for girls in Years 7, 8 and 9 and invites our younger pupils to come and enjoy dance sessions with Sophie Smallwood.

Henley Theatre Laboratory takes place in the Drama Studio in school on a Tuesday evening 6.30pm–8.30 pm. Please see more information about these workshops inside this newsletter.

December 2006—**Performance by the Theatre Laboratory**—more details to come.

19th December—**High Spirits**—Celebrate Christmas with a festive evening of music & dance.

