

November 2006

We welcome Mr D Long to Tudhoe Grange School as a Year Leader and teacher of mathematics.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

As is the Tudhoe Grange custom, we are once again collecting tins, packets etc. of food to make Christmas hampers for old people. Both buildings are situated amongst old people's houses and distributing hampers at Christmas goes a little way towards compensating them for the hustle and bustle of so many young people passing their homes during the year! Please help us with this appeal.

In Lower School we plan to reward students for good behaviour and effort with a party at Christmas.
Yr 9 – Tues 19 December
Yr 8 – Wed 20 December
Yr 7 – Thurs 21 December

On activity day, morning will be as normal with lesson 4 ending at 12.15pm. The party will then start at 1pm, finishing at 3.00pm. Students should be in school in normal uniform for the morning session and the break will allow them to go home, if they wish, to get changed for their party. For students unable to go home we will make some arrangements for them to be able to get ready in school.

Upper School students:

A day of external activities is being planned - details following.

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

PTA welcomes parents who would like to be part of a thriving group involved in supporting the education of students in this school. If interested please telephone 815000 or email upper.tgs@tudhoegrange.org.uk.

School Charity Carol Concert

This event will take place on Tuesday 12 December at 7pm in our Lower School Hall. The blessing will be given by Canon Neville Baker. There will be a retiring collection for our Child in Need appeal.



BAND'S CHRISTMAS GIG

Thurs 14 December 7pm – Spennymoor Town Hall. A really special night for all concerned – make it a date! Tickets available from school. Or order on line: www.tgsb.net £4 adult £2 children/concessions. Or why not buy a 'Family Ticket', £10 for 2 adults and 2 concessions. Bar available.

Band Consent Form: all members should get the annual consent form signed by their parent/carer in order for them to take part in the numerous concerts during the year.

New Double CD recording: 'It Don't Mean a Thing If You Ain't Had That Swing'. Both Bands had successful recording sessions last term to contribute to the double compilation CD due out towards the end of the year. CDs are available at a cost of £8 – cheques made payable to TGSB.
Year 7 Students – remember that all new members and parents need to log onto the band's website at www.tgsb.net

Band AGM: Parents: we need your help and support at this meeting. Year 7 students' parents are most welcome. Wednesday 22 November at 7.00pm, Durham Road School.

BAND BAG PACKING: We need all parents' and students' help – Saturday 9 December 10am-4pm at ASDA, Spennymoor.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Elections were held recently when students voted to choose a form representative for the KS3 Student Council. This is a group of 18 students who will meet regularly to express the views of the whole school, will help make decisions about whole school issues and feedback to their form members. Hopefully this will make all students feel they are being listened to!

SNAG (School Nutrition Action Group)

Mrs Biddulph and a group of 12 students, met recently with representatives from our school meal providers to discuss the choices already served and possible choices for the future. Students' views, including likes/dislikes/preferences, are also discussed and used to influence what is served. Healthy breacktime snacks were also discussed.

REMINDER TO YEAR 7 AND YEAR 8 PARENTS – students are not to leave the premises at lunchtime.

CONNEXIONS

Connexions is the support service and guidance service for teenagers. We work with young people in school and until their 20th birthday. Phone or email Lesley Jacobs or Lorna Jennings at Bishop Auckland Connexions Centre for support and careers guidance on 01388 603468 Or lesley.jacobs@connexions-durham.org lorna.jennings@connexions-durham.org

Visit the Connexions website at www.help4teens.co.uk

READING CONNECTS

Tudhoe Grange school has recently been awarded the right to call itself a 'Reading Connects' school. Reading Connects is a DfES-funded National Reading Campaign initiative, which supports schools in 'building their own reading culture'. Tudhoe Grange recognises the importance of establishing a whole school community of readers and aims to do this through a variety of activities throughout the school year. We already have a lunchtime reading group aimed at Year 8, which meets weekly on a Thursday. Anybody interested in joining the reading group or who has a great idea about how we could promote reading further, please see Mrs Timmiss.

LOST PROPERTY

Each term, we accumulate a miscellaneous collection of items on both school sites. This includes jumpers of various sizes, outdoor coats, trainers and even leather shoes. These items could be returned to their owners if they were named. Parents are requested to ensure that **ALL** items of clothing and property are named using indelible ink. Items of lost property are made available for collection at the end of each term. Any unclaimed items will be sent to local Charity Shops.

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

Tuesday 26 Sept was the European Day of Languages and once again students and staff in Lower School joined in the celebrations. They learnt how to say "Hello" in many different languages and some students had taster lessons in Russian or Spanish. At lunchtime there was a European theme to the meals being served in the dining hall and students took part in a variety of quizzes.

SPORTS RESULTS

Congratulations to the Y11 netball team who finished runners-up in their district tournament. Congratulations to Eve Blance (Y9) and Gemma Waugh (Y8) who both have managed to secure a place in the Durham Netball Academy and will receive specialized coaching throughout the session. Congratulations to Y11 student, Kellie Cox, who has successfully gained a place on the County Football Team. We have a World Junior Champion at Tudhoe Grange – John Costello (Y11) who lifted the title last month in the World Field Target Shooting Championships – congratulations John. Inter-form competition is well underway at lunchtimes in Netball, Football and Cross-Country running, for our Lower School students. All Years 7-10 have a boys' football team and are competing in B.A.S.F.A. leagues. Y11 are getting a team together to play friendly matches.

A Curriculum Evening for Year 7

Do you wonder what your child does at school? If so, and you are a parent of a Year 7 student, why not come along to our Parents' Curriculum Evening on **Tuesday 21 November?** An invitation letter will be sent home soon, please return the reply slip and come along to participate in some sample lessons. We look forward to seeing you.

STUDENT REVIEW DAYS

The commitment of students, staff and parents was clearly demonstrated when 90% of all year groups took part in reviews of achievement to date and target setting to ensure future progress. Parents are reminded to track student progress towards targets by regularly looking at Student Organisers.

REMINDER

School is closed (staff training days)
MONDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2006
TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2006

HEADTEACHER "DROP-INS"

Mrs Warren is available for informal discussions on Friday evenings between 3 and 4pm. If parents wish to discuss any items, whether personal to their child or of a more general nature, please contact the Head's secretary to ensure an appointment – 01388 815000.

WORK EXPERIENCE DATES

15 December – all "own arranged" yellow forms to be returned to Mrs Knight.
9-13 July – Work Experience Week.

HELP YOUR FAMILY AND OUR SCHOOL

The government gives extra funding to schools according to the number of students on the Free School Meal register.

Have your circumstances changed?

If you are in receipt of any of the following you may be eligible: income support, income based job seekers allowance, support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, Child Tax Credit with NO award of Working Tax Credit, Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit. Even if your child doesn't take school meals, please register with school (though I would encourage them to do so), by registering you can help your family income and trigger off much needed government cash which will help all students.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

I remind parents that in the event of emergencies, parents should listen in the morning before school for messages read out on:

BBC Radio Newcastle
Frequency 95.4 FM
BBC Radio Cleveland
Frequency 95 FM

Messages are also put on both school telephone systems so that parents can get information both during the day and out of school office hours.

CHILD IN NEED

Our annual Child in Need appeal is to be launched soon - please watch for further details and help us beat the £2500 raised in 2005. Events to raise money will include a disco, sponsored silence and a mufti day.

HEALTH SERVICES

We are looking at the sexual health services we offer our students. As part of the consultation exercise we would like to invite parents to take part in a discussion group. If you are interested please contact Mrs Knight at Upper School for further information.

DATES FOR YOUR 2006/2007 DIARY

Thurs 16 Nov
Tues 21 Nov
Mon 27 Nov
Tues 28 Nov
Fri 22 Dec
Mon 8 Jan
Thurs 11 Jan
Wed 17 Jan
Tues 23 Jan
Mon 29 Jan
Thurs 1 Feb
Tues 6 Feb
Fri 16 Feb
Wed 28 March
Fri 30 March
May 8-11
Mon 21 May onwards

Y11 Parents' Evening 3.30 – 5.30pm
Y7 Parents' Curriculum Evening
Professional Development Day – School Closed
Professional Development Day – School Closed
School closes for Christmas holiday
School opens for students
Year 7 Parents' Evening 3.30-5.30pm
Year 8 Parents' Evening 3.30-5.30pm
Year 9 Parents' Evening 3.30-5.30pm
Year 11 Mock Exams begin
Full Governors' Meeting 1.30pm Upper School
Year 9 Opportunities' Evening 7-9pm Upper School
School closes for Half-term Holiday
Year 9 Mock SATs begin
Easter holidays begin. Return to school Mon 16 April
Year 9 Key Stage 3 SATs
The bulk of the GCSE written exams take place between 21 May – 29 June but oral and practical exams take place earlier than this. Always check with the school before booking holidays.



FAMILY HOLIDAYS

Please consult the school calendar or phone the school **BEFORE** booking a holiday during term time. Requests in writing please.

Permission will **not** be granted for examination students.