

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2011

The Durham Federation A Federation between Durham Community Business College & Fyndoune Community College



FANTASTIC GCSE SUCCESS AT THE DURHAM FEDERATION!

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Fabulous Prom to celebrate year 11 achievement

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FANTASTIC GCSE SUCCESS AT THE DURHAM FEDERATION!



This summer both Colleges within the Durham Federation have absolutely shattered the records for GCSE exam success!

This is the third year in a row in which both Colleges have surged ahead of their predicted level of success and achieved way beyond everyone's wildest dreams.

Durham Community Business College achieved a 64.8% pass rate for students achieving 5 high pass grades including maths and English, whilst Fyndoune achieved a pass rate of 79% for the same measure - absolutely fantastic!



Chief Executive Anne Lakey said, 'There are lots of ways of measuring the performance of a school, and using the 5 GCSE passes at C grade or higher including maths and English is only one of them - however, for

both of the Colleges to do so well against this tough measure is very pleasing - it shows what hard work and outstanding teaching can do.'

It is clear that for both schools to do so well in the GCSE exams something special must be going on. Grahame Davey, Key Stage Four Achievement Leader said, 'We have invested heavily in creating outstanding learning environments in both Colleges, where students are taught by skilled and dedicated staff and their curriculum is designed around their individual needs - that's why Durham Community Business College was graded outstanding by OfSTED earlier this year and Fyndoune will be when it is inspected next year.'

It's clear that the way the two schools have combined academic excellence, vocational relevance and fantastic facilities has certainly had a profound effect on the mindset of students at the Colleges - they are ambitious, confident, enthusiastic and eager to learn - it's easy to see why the colleges are outstanding.

The Federation's model of fantastic education and tremendous exam success has attracted national attention, with headteachers, local authorities and even the Department for Education in London asking to come and visit to see what we do.

But of course it is the young people who deserve the credit, and this year's GCSE students and their parents and carers can be immensely proud of how hard they have worked and all they have achieved - they have a tremendous future ahead of them.



PROM FEVER! THE DURHAM FEDERATION SUMMER BALL 2011



On Friday 10th June, Year 11s flocked to Chilton Country Club for their final rite of passage - The Durham Federation Summer Ball.

Dresses were bought, hair was done, make-up

was applied perfectly as the girls all prepared for the night of their lives. However, it wasn't all sequins and sparkles as the boys also chose tuxes, suits and ties to give them the edge. But the outfits weren't the only interesting aspects of the night...

There was a dish of fruit to start, a choice of main course either roast beef dinner or vegetarian lasagne and delicious chocolate fudge cake to finish.

After the meal, students and teachers voted for Prom King and Queen, and took part in a raffle. Jordan Reay

was voted Prom King for Fyndoune, with Melissa Clembintson as Prom Queen. Prom King at DCBC was Scott Young, while Amy Taylor took the crown for Prom Queen. There's no doubt they were deserving winners!



It was certainly a great night. All the Year 11s involved really enjoyed the night, and had a fantastic time. 'It was great! I really, really enjoyed it. A very emotional night,' said Mrs Elliot, who was at the event. 'Everyone looked amazing in their prom dresses and tuxes!'

A big success all round! We wish all Year 11's good luck for the future, and hope that they will always remember their time at The Durham Federation!

By Phoebe Bradley & Rosie Adams

YEAR 10 & 11 CELEBRATION EVENINGS



As the year draws to a close, many celebration evenings have been taking place across the Federation!

The Year 10 achievement evenings, taking place at both

Fyndoune and DCBC, were a great celebration of all of the students' great effort and attainment throughout the year. Many awards were given out to students for all manner of different subjects, and the overall atmosphere was fantastic as students were delighted with their awards.

Matt Todd, a DCBC student who was the recipient of Maths, Geography and Attendance awards, said, 'I thoroughly enjoyed the night.' As Head Boy, he had to make a speech, along with Lauren Cook, Head Girl. At Fyndoune, Megan Williams and Thomas Hockaday spoke to the parents and carers who had attended the evening with their sons and daughters.

At the Year 11 evening, the atmosphere was suitably nostalgic. In fact, one of the speakers was Mr Laird, who taught many of the students at FCC. He remembered many of his own students and was able to pick out particular students he recognised from the audience, something which many students found touching.

At the evening, all Year 11s received their Yearbooks. These chronicled their five years in college, and included pictures of all of the students in Year 7. Many signed the back pages of each other's books with messages to remember each other by.

It was a lovely end to five years at The Durham Federation, and although it's very sad to see such important members of our Federation leave, I know that all staff and students will join me in wishing them the best of luck for the future, whatever they choose to do.



ANNE FRANK EXHIBITION

Recently Year 6 students have been involved in a historical project researching the life of Anne Frank. Concluding this project, students have presented their findings to the rest of the Year group. They have been delivering presentations on a range of subjects including: treatment of the Jewish Community during the War, the life of Anne Frank and living conditions in the 1940s.

Clear lessons have come out of the project - it is different for students to learn about something from each other, speaking in front of people has helped to develop

their own confidence. Students commented on how fun it is to be taught by their college friends. Nathan Henderson, a Year 8 Student said 'Schools do this exhibition to get a better understanding of the subject'. We are two of only a few schools in County Durham who partner with this project and have been rewarded recently with two wonderful plaques for our reception areas in recognition of our work in this area!



ECO SCHOOLS



In May, The Durham Federation was assessed by two Eco Schools Assessors and found worthy of the high profile Green Flag Status. Throughout the year, ECO and SNAG students have worked together to achieve this award

This prestigious national award is only made to schools which have made outstanding progress in the fields of Sustainability and Environmental conservation.

In September 2011, students carried out an extensive Environmental Audit then produced their Action Plan for the year which was implemented and progress reviewed each term.

Their targets included growing more foods to be used within Food Technology lessons. Their aim was to reduce the pollution caused by "food miles". To help them implement this target, students worked with Food for Life Partnership consultants and learnt how to grow foods and compost waste materials. Students have really enjoyed working on all of their projects during 2010 - 11.



FARM SHOP: GET READY!

The farm is constantly growing and further growth is certainly not set to be stunted this year! We introduced the new Farm Shop last term. The shop is intended to provide service to the school and also the local community.



This term, plans have been drawn up and construction is ready with a deadline set for 2012. As usual, the person in the know with all the Farm information is Miss Ramm who was glad to share the latest updates. Firstly, she told us about the

range of fruit and vegetables that were likely to be sold, including strawberries, tomatoes, leeks, potatoes and peas. Chicken and Duck eggs will also be on sale. Some of the fruit grown will also be made into jam to be sold in the shop. The Technology Department will be working with students to make some of the products for sale such as, bird boxes and other garden accessories! The shop itself will be the size of a small classroom and will include all the needed equipment to make it a thriving business. Staffing the shop will be students with the intention that they will get real hands on enterprise experience in buying, selling and also marketing products and running a successful business.

The Farm Shop is an exciting development for the Federation and will be a great advantage to the students and the local community. Income generated from sales will be used for extra learning activities, it will also provide education in enterprise and will be something we can be really proud of.

FOOD GROWTH

After the recent success of the food bus's visit to DCBC we are continuing to work towards becoming the greenest school we can be.

Our next step has seen allotments and raised flower beds have been built, the food we grow in here will be used across the federation in the food technology area, not only that but we are hoping to make lots of produce with the crops we will grow and plan to sell these in the the farm shop that will be located on the FCC site.

Here we will sell all sorts of products that we will grow and harvest across the federation from basic vegetables to chutneys. Our federation keeps going from strength to strength when it come to going green and we are planning on becoming even greener with the help of all these new plans.



Morocco: Update

By the time you receive this newsletter, all of the students planning to head off on the Morocco trip will have jetted off to Africa for trekking and tourist fun. However, for the moment we're still in the UK, and looking forward to our forthcoming trip!

It seems almost close enough to touch, and most students have bought their kit and all-important walking boots, and are ready to trek for the 12 miles a day required when on expedition. Robbie Nixon, a Year 9 student in Team 2, says of the walking distances: "It's too far!"

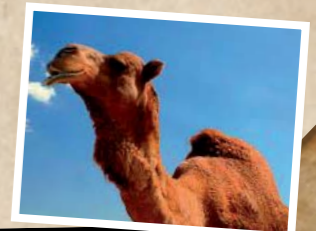
But Robbie, and all the other students, will have to get used to walking such a long way if he wants to get to one of the many destinations planned for the trip. Local Berber villages will provide welcome distractions, as due to recent events we are not going into Marrakech anymore. This was a decision taken in conjunction with World Challenge, who worked with their in-country

agents to make the choice. However, we will still be heading into other local towns with the opportunity to experience the sights, sounds and smells of an outdoor market and the famous Moroccan souks.

Some last-minute fundraising is still taking place, with some students taking advantage of the hot weather by holding car boots and fundraising evenings, in final attempts to collect the closing balance, which most students have reached with the help of college.

All in all, it's a very exciting time for students! "I'm really looking forward to the trip, all I need now is my hat!" says Grace Bulmer, a Year 10 Team 1 Challenger.

Hopefully the holiday, or maybe Challenge would be a better name, will be an exciting experience for all involved, and something they'll remember for the rest of their lives!



A local press release about our trip...

World Challenge Expedition to Morocco 2011



Students pictured with MP Kevan Jones

32 students from The Durham Federation will be going on an expedition to Morocco in July this year. Staff and students will be taking part in a trip of a lifetime including experiencing the Moroccan culture first hand and camel trekking through the desert. Students will be interacting with local village children teaching them traditional British customs and games.

Helen Smith, student of The Durham Federation said "I am really excited for this opportunity - this is something I would never have done by myself and I can't wait". Staff and students have been working hard over 2 years to raise the money for their trip. Students have been hard at work bag packing, running raffles, collecting old clothes and even braving an abseil off the Transporter Bridge. Local donations have also played a big part in reaching our total of £1200 per student - MP Kevan Jones recently donated

£500. Amy Davison, teacher from the Durham Federation said "We were overwhelmed by this generosity, this donation has made a significant difference to our fundraising". In addition to this Staff and students from the Durham Federation are also very grateful for a donation of £1200 from Sacriston Parish Council which has also made a huge difference to our fund raising.

The ethos of World Challenge is to provide students with life changing experiences which will truly broaden their horizons and awareness of other cultures and give them an experience never to be forgotten. Amy Powell, teacher from the Durham Federation said "We are so proud of our students for working so hard to achieve their fundraising goal and more, but there always seems to be something else that needs to be paid for - the donation from Kevan Jones has really helped us towards paying for the buses down to London where we are flying from".



MP Kevan Jones presenting a donation

DIARY OF OUR TRIP TO PARIS



On the 14th of April, The Durham Federation packed up and boarded the ferry, with destination Paris in mind. Everyone was full of excitement. As the 80 students took to the seas, we were looking forward to a weekend filled with sight seeing and obviously the small matter of visiting Disneyland Paris.

Friday

We arrived in Zeebrugge and set off eagerly to see the sights. The coaches trundled through the busy city with stops planned to visit both Notre Dame and the Arc de Triumph. Notre Dame was beautiful swathed in history. The view from the Arc De Triumph was breathtaking, you could see Paris for miles and the Eiffel Tower was even in view! We also saw where Johnny Depp lived which not surprisingly, all the girls loved.

After walking a round seeing the sights, we finally stopped off to eat at the Monte Carlo Restaurant. To end the day we went down the river on a boat taking in the amazing sights of Paris at sunset. We then made our way back to the hotel to get ready for Disneyland!

Saturday

Finally the long awaited trip to Disneyland had arrived. Here we enjoyed strolling through the magical parks, meeting the much loved Disney characters, screaming our way from ride to ride. After a day of going on the rides, we sat down to watch the magical parade.



Sunday

This was our final day and the last thing we did before making our way back to Zeebrugge. Although everyone was tired after the excitement of the past few days, no visit to Paris would be complete without seeing the Eiffel Tower close up. We were all surprised by the actual size of the Eiffel Tower, we did get pictures in front of this spectacular monument but nothing can show what it was like to be stood looking up at it. Exhausted we started our journey home, still chattering excitedly about all the things we had done on our amazing trip.



FLAMINGO LAND TRIP



On the 23rd of May, a record number of Year 7, 8 and 9 students went to Flamingo Land. The trip was arranged as a reward for students who had worked hard all year whose effort grades reflected their ongoing exceptional

attitude. Four buses took the over excited students to the theme park. Most of the students went straight to Velocity, the fastest ride in the park. About an hour before we were due to leave, it started to pour down with rain! However, everyone still enjoyed their day.

While Kumali, one of the more popular rides, was closed due to weather, many other exciting rides such as Cliffhanger and Flip-Flop were open for students to have fun. Many faced their fears as they plunged from great heights on Cliffhanger, holding on for their lives.

Overall, students had a great day, laughing in the rain and screaming in the air. We are all extremely proud that more students than ever before experienced this trip for their great achievements in College



THE NATIONAL DEBATE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Following the National debate and changes to the Health and Social Care Bill, current students studying this topic have found it most interesting. Natasha Hunter Year 10 Health and Social care GCSE shares her views:

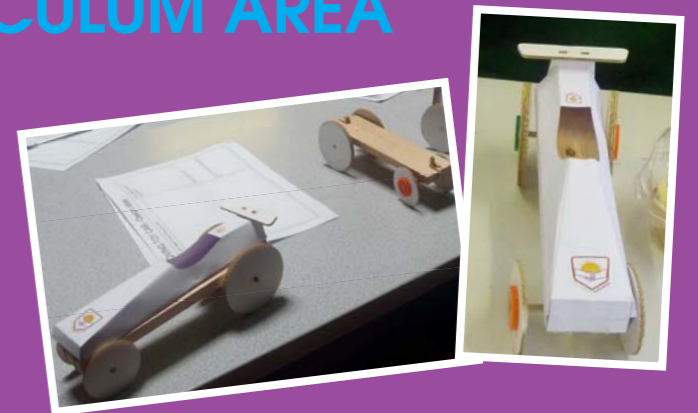
"I enjoy Health and Social Care mainly because it places a lot of emphasis on health issues that will help me and my fellow students later on in life, for instance recently my class and I discussed the horrors that were shown in Castlebeck and the disgusting way the patients were treated. We all discussed how most people will not condone this and that if we were a carer in that particular place we would try to help the patients and alert the Police. The Castlebeck situation got me to thinking how important Health and Social care actually is, without it we wouldn't have the ability to look after elderly people or children.

Health and Social Care is basically to do with intellectual, emotional, social and physical issues. We learn about the deterioration into old age and the different life stages. Another thing we learn about is the measurements of health.

I'm glad I chose this subject as it will help me on my career towards owning my own nursery. It will also help some of my fellow students who want to be social workers, midwives and teachers".

TRANSITION ACTIVITIES IN TECHNOLOGY & VOCATIONAL CURRICULUM AREA

Take note Alan Sugar, these could be our future Engineers, Designers and Chefs! All Primary children visiting the DCBC site spent a day working in the Technology and Vocational areas, having an experience of working in Construction, the Hair Salon, Technology Work shops or in the Food Test Kitchens. Hard at work, these yr 5 students are busy making food items as a trial product ready for sampling!



Just adding the finishing touches to their prototype buggies, these year 6 students tested their buggies for their aerodynamics and durability. A quick pit stop for minor repairs is underway, before the buggies raced across the finishing line. Each vehicle was made from wood, dowel, and card and was propelled by friction with the clever use of elastic bands.

IEHO FOOD HYGIENE CERTIFICATES

All Food handlers in the industry must have this qualification. Our year 10 students who follow Health, Food or Hair & Beauty courses have completed this training. Having this qualification can often help secure students with part time employment. Pictured below are some of this years "Hall of Fame" GCSE final Food Technology products - students have to develop, manufacture and test their own dishes.



Lime and butterscotch cooked cheesecake served with a raspberry coulis, by Sarah Guy.



Stuffed vegetarian beetroot cannelloni, served with cheese roux and spicy plaited bread by Jordan Reay



Strawberry cheesecake served in a brandy snap basket, supplied with fresh lemon curd and chocolate strips by Lewis Clarke



Fruit filled pancakes with a fresh custard sauce served with a peach coulis, topped with strawberries, piled high. By Jasmine Philipps



Spinach and tomato cannelloni, set on a bed of cheese roux served with tomato, apple and chilli chutney.

FEDERATION SPORT

SUMMER SPORT AT THE FEDERATION

We are now running very successful lunchtime games sessions led by our Y10 leaders in both colleges known as Leadership Lunchtimes. Younger students of all ages are able to use the all weather pitches to play football, cricket and other games during their lunchtimes. The sessions have been really popular and students are certainly getting plenty of exercise each day!

The Y10 leaders at DCBC have been involved in numerous festivals including KS1 Multiskills and KS2 Mini Olympics. The Y10 leaders at FCC have also had some excellent experiences including running their own festival for Y3/4 students during one of our collapsed days. All students have developed their skills really well and have been able to use their experience as evidence towards their BTEC Sport qualifications.

Our younger students at DCBC have been getting a taste of leadership activities during a recent Y3 Tennis Tournament held in The Bobby Robson Sports Hall and run by the Durham City Sports Partnership. They were extremely good representatives for the college and helped to ensure the Y3 had a great experience.

Cricket has again proved to be a popular sport with both girls and boys teams competing in the Inter Cricket Tournament through the Chester-le-Street and Durham City Sports Partnerships. Competition was fierce and whilst none of the teams were able to make it through to the next round all the players had a fantastic day.

Our Athletics teams did extremely well this year with many students making finals of their events, especially our Y7/8 teams. Particular congratulations go to Harry Winham (8th in 100m), Caitlin Smith (2nd 100m), Megan Hocking (6th 200m), Connor Mulligan (6th 200m), Y8 DCBC girls Relay team, Jordan Freek (1st in High Jump) and Kevin Squirrel (2nd in Shot Put). Our Y7's at DCBC also got the opportunity to participate in some more unusual sports such as lacrosse, golf and judo as part of their Secondary Olympics held at Maiden Castle. At FCC students have been able to try golf as an after school activity at Pelton Grange Golf Grange. This is a brand new sport for the students involved and they certainly enjoyed trying something a bit different!

FEDERATION CRICKET



Fyndoune Community College have had wins and losses in cricket this term. Unfortunately, the Year 8 team were beaten by Durham Johnston as they were bowled out for 35. Durham Johnston went on to win the match by 10 wickets. The Year 9 team got off to a good start as they won against St.Bedes by 3 runs.

There was a star performance from Daniel Anderson scoring 43 not out, a huge contribution to the win. The Year 10 team were beaten by Greencroft in the first round after Greencroft passed the target with time to spare. There might not have been wins all round but the team have been glad that the weather has held out for them, on the most part!

2011 YEAR 9 ATHLETICS COMPETITION

The Durham Federation took part in an athletics competition on 24th May. There were over 20 schools from all over County Durham competing at The Riverside and there was real success.

Jonathan Grindley successfully came second in the 100m sprint, this assured him a place in the area finals! Jonathan carried on this success and came fifth in the final. There were a number of other activities such as long jump, javelin, high jump, relay, discus and the 800M sprint in which, our athletes competed commendably, making the competition a success all round.

