

# Abbey Hill School & Technology College Newsletter

Autumn 2007

## Abbey Hill does it again!

Abbey Hill School & Technology College



Abbey Hill School & Technology College has recently been through the re-designation process to continue with our specialist status. We have been informed that we have achieved this once again (for the third time). Congratulations to all staff who worked hard in the re-designation process. Not only that but we have also added a new aspect to our status that of having a rural dimension, this will help with our theme of sustainability and an awareness of environmental issues it also fits in with our other Technology targets.

## Abbey Hill Students are revolting



On the 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> October 9SP went to Beamish to do a workshop with students from Bishopsgarth School. The theme was to gain an understanding of the role of the suffragettes. While

they were there they took part in a drama workshop and re-enacted a suffragette rally.

## Saturday Club

We are delighted to have received a grant of just over £6,000 to fund the Saturday Club from



October through to the end of December. The grant came from the Local Network Fund via the Tees Valley Community Foundation and will ensure that

our fun club will continue offering regular weekend play activities and also respite opportunities for parents and carers. The Saturday Club will run on alternate Saturdays from 11am – 3pm.

The club has proved immensely popular with children taking part in a whole range of activities including cookery, arts and crafts, and playing in the ball pool. Comments from parents who have used the club include “Brilliant idea, it’s the only respite that we get, he was tired out when he got home” and “They came out really happy and can’t wait for the next one” and children’s comments included “It’s much better than school!” and “I had a really good day”. If you are interested in your child attending the club please call Lynne Stewart on 01642 677113.

## Mary Baxter 1951 – 2007

Mary Baxter one of Abbey Hill’s longest serving



members of staff who only retired due to ill health last term died during the summer holiday. Mary had been ill for some time but her death was still a shock to all staff. Many parents will remember Mary as a very hard working and warm member of staff.

Parents who may have sent their child on one of the French trips may remember her for that. She will be missed by staff and students who knew her. She was one of the founding staff members of Abbey Hill and her contribution has helped to shape the school into the excellent organisation it has become. Our wishes and thoughts go out to her family.

## Eddie Allen retires

Eddie Allen our longest serving school technician



retired in October. Eddie has been a mainstay in keeping our school extensive computer network working and growing. He started out without any knowledge of computers and has built up

comprehensive skills of how to manage a complex school network. Eddie has been one of Abbey Hill’s characters and everyone has a story to tell about their dealings with him. We wish him well in his retirement.

## Playground Appeal

The Friends of Abbey Hill charity has launched a fundraising ‘Playground Appeal’ which will result in a number of new outdoor play and sport facilities for our students. Empty space outside the school will be turned into areas for lots of fun

activity. An activity trail, a multi-use games area for ball games, and a sensory play area are among the plans. The total appeal target is £100,000 and already £10,000 has been raised! We hope staff, parents and friends of Abbey Hill will support our fundraising efforts and we look forward to sharing news of our progress with you over the coming months. If you have any fundraising ideas to pass on or would like to help us with the Appeal in some way, please do let us know by calling either Liz Allison on 01642 768291 or Carol Kidner or Sharon McHale on 01642 357762.

## Christmas Card Competition Finalist!

Phillip Stewart (10BJ) has been selected as a finalist in the Select Education Christmas Card Competition! You can see his picture on the Select Education website



<http://www.selecteducation.co.uk/christmascardcompetition/>

We are also taking part in the Christmas Card Comp run by TVEBP (Tees Valley Education Business Partnership)...all entries are to be on A4 paper and handed to Debbie Birdsall at the Sheraton building by 7 December.

There are 2 age categories and there will be 2 first prizes of £50 and 2 runners up prizes of £25. The winner will have their card created electronically by Calm Asylum and all companies/employers who provide Work Experience Placements will be 'electronically pinged' with the Christmas Card.

Only three schools are taking part this year, us, Grangefield and Thornaby Community School. If this is successful then all schools may take part next year.

## A bright idea to save the planet

Congratulations to Class 11PT who have won a national competition by coming up with a novel idea which caught the judges' imagination. The competition launched by Formation Training & Development asked children how they would spend £10 to make a difference in their community. The class decided they would buy two copies of the 'Change The World For a Fiver' book and would send these with two unused disposable cameras to Ash Trees Primary and

Harrow Gate Primary, two of Abbey Hill's partner schools. Both schools will then use the ideas from the book to prepare a lesson or assembly, take one photo with the camera and then pass the book on to another school. Abbey Hill will collect 'evidence' of what's been happening by keeping in touch with the schools via e-mail. To make sure that this is an environmentally friendly project, they have asked that the book and camera be delivered from school to school on foot. The judges said the idea was "inspirational!" As the winning entry, Abbey Hill also gets a prize of £100 which the students are planning to use to create their own book highlighting what primary schools in the area are doing to support sustainability and the environment. Well done Class 11PT!

## Grand Christmas Draw

It's that time of year again! The Friends of Abbey Hill are holding the annual fundraising Grand Christmas Draw Event and raffle tickets are now on sale at 20p each. First prize is £200 CASH!!! and other prizes include a DVD/Video Player and a Freeview Box. The date for your diary is Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm at the school and entry tickets are £1.50 for adults and £1 for children – this includes pie and peas as well as Bingo, children's quiz and lots of stalls, and of course the raffle will be drawn on the night. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Abbey Hill Football Team get supported

**NOBLE** This year we  
**VEHICLE HIRE** have been very  
lucky in having  
the support and  
sponsorship of

Noble Vehicle Hire of Darlington. We would like to thank its MD Colin Gillespie for his support. They have provided the team with a new strip. The football team have joined a special needs football league this year they are doing very well so far we have lost two games and won five they are somewhere near the top of the league. We have also had parents supporting us in home and away matches we would like to thank Noble and Colin along with the parents for supporting the football team long may it continue. Shaun and I are very proud to be involved in coaching the team. It has been great watching our young men playing as team members and not as individuals. Shaun and I are very proud of all the players well done.

Shaun Appleton (coach)  
Jill Bell (assistant coach)