

Northwood College Newsletter



March 2005

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One of the most exciting and important aspects of life here at Northwood College involves our connections with the local community and society at large. We also recognise the important role that visits play in providing a broad and balanced education. Being an outward looking school is vital to us and we thought you would be interested to know what has been going on so far this year.

Raising Funds For Charity

The whole school has been working hard to raise money for a wide range of local, national, and international charities. The charity events provide an opportunity for the girls to demonstrate their creative talents as they think up new and exciting ways to raise funds. There have been several major events already including Jeans for Genes Day and 'Spirit of Asia'. The latter raised £3000 for White Pigeon, a charitable organisation helping to rehabilitate those disabled by the civil unrest in Sri Lanka and Pratham, which helps underprivileged children in India. As in previous years, the girls brought in non-perishable items for our Harvest Festival in October and supported the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in November.

In the second half of the Autumn Term, Mrs Levy, who coordinates the senior school charity fund-raising events at Northwood College, set off on her own fund raising adventure; a 6 day, 400 mile bike ride in Rajasthan, India. She raised a magnificent £6000 for Whizz Kids, a charity that helps disabled children obtain specialised mobility equipment.

Like many, the girls and staff here have been keen to raise funds for charities working in the area affected by the Asian tsunami. The proceeds from a talent show and from the school's first ever sleepover will be donated to these charities. One of the charities we will be donating to has been set up by an old girl, Katie Posner (leaver 1992) who was staying in Unawatuna, Sri Lanka at the time of the tsunami. The village was devastated but Katie hopes that her charity will be able to build houses, businesses and a school in the village with the donations she receives.

Many charities at home have seen their donations dwindling as people target their donations to the tsunami appeal. However, the girls at Northwood College were all too pleased to help the Mayor of Hillingdon, David Payne, raise money for his chosen charity, the Macmillan Nurses, when they fell silent for 'The Big Hush' on 28th January. The girls raised a total of £1,100.

The focus for recent Junior School charity events has been raising money to support the Tsunami Appeal. Girls in Vincent House filled Smartie tubes with money and raised £878. Many junior girls used their initiative selling trinkets that they had made, others ran bingo sessions and organised raffles. Year 6 held a Pancake and Valentine's charity event. So far they have raised £625, with a grand Bring and Buy Sale still to come. The money will go towards 'adopting' a school on Sri Lanka to help it get back on its feet.



Service in the Community

The girls at Northwood College are also encouraged to look beyond themselves and the school to the local community and the wider world. Through an active programme of community service they are encouraged to discover the potential they have for using their gifts and skills to help others – they work in local schools including Sunshine House, Holy Trinity and The Hall, nursing homes such as Pocklington House, charitable organisations and hospitals. Through organised events such as the production of 'The Sound of Music, to which the residents of Pocklington House were invited, and carol singing in the same nursing home, the girls forge closer links with members of our community they might not otherwise meet.

For the Sixth Form particularly, as well as girls in Upper School, going out of school and engaging with members of our community here in Northwood is something they enjoy and look forward to. Several girls visit elderly residents in the locality as part of the Live at Home Scheme. Julia Dixon (Y13), talking about her experiences of the scheme said, 'It's nice to have time set aside just to talk to our elderly lady. She gives us a different perspective and you can talk to her about anything and benefit from her experience. It's great to know that to know that you are making a difference and that your visits are appreciated.'



Visits, Expeditions and Outings

Throughout the school, all girls have the opportunity to participate in visits to places of interest and cultural and sporting events that complement and extend classroom activities. Numerous outings and visits have taken place since the start of the academic year, including the Year 5 visit to Hampton Court and the Year 4 outing to the Three Valleys Environment Education Centre. Girls in Year 3 have enjoyed visits to Highclere Castle and Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre and Year 1 pupils have been to see exhibits at the RAF Museum,

in Hendon. Year 6 found their visit to the Black Country Living Museum particularly interesting and enjoyable as they learnt more about life in Victorian times.

In the senior school, GCSE Religious Studies groups attended a Holocaust Memorial Day Education Afternoon at local synagogues and heard moving accounts of what life was like in the concentration camps from survivors. The Sixth Form Psychology groups have enjoyed visits to the Freud Museum and Science Museum. Art has provided the inspiration and focus for many visits so far with outings to Tate Modern, Tate Britain and Kew Gardens. The highlight for many girls in the Sixth Form was the Art visit to Barcelona in October. The girls spent a hectic but fun-filled four days visiting exhibitions, museums and exploring the architectural highlights of the city. The AS and A2 Graphics and Art groups, together with some of their friends, returned to London having been inspired by Dali, Miro, Picasso and Gaudi. Another Art visit, this time to Venice is planned for next year.

Over the next few months, many more expeditions will be taking place, including Modern Languages visits to Berlin, Halluin, and Boulogne and other trips to Ypres,

Cambridge and Warwick. The Physical Education Department will also be taking a group of forty Year 8 and 9 girls on a water sports holiday in the south of France in the summer. In the Junior School, there will be residential trips to Ivinghoe and the Isle of Wight in May for Years 5 and 6.

You will be able to read full accounts of all these events and more in the school magazine, which will be published in September.

