

# THE FERRERS SCHOOL

## NEWS REVIEW

### July 2017



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Each edition of Ferrers News published via our website provides gives links to our Latest News items. Here, we produce a selection of news from the current term.

Dear parents / carers & students

As this is my final piece for Ferrers News, I thought I would use it as a time of reflection. I have now written 40 of these front pieces over the last six and a half years and looking back over these has been a wonderful trip down memory lane.

The first thing that strikes me is just how routine schools are.

There is an established rhythm to the school year running through new arrivals, school shows, regular trips and visits, sporting events, exam time and – eventually – school leavers and celebrations.

On top of this, though, there are the exceptional events. These mark significant changes or turning points and create something of a history of the school over the last few years. One such event was the time we converted to Academy status. Very few schools were allowed to do this on their own and it has helped us retain our identity and stay in control of our own destiny. There have also been two OFSTED inspections. The first (just after I arrived) rated the school as “satisfactory”. A little over three years later we were “good”. Those two events on their own tell something of the story about how much the school has improved recently. Then there are the charity events, perhaps the biggest of which was when the whole school gathered together on the tennis courts to hop on one leg for Sport Relief – and break the world record! There have also been some significant changes to the school site, including the fabulous all-



weather sports pitch, the new languages block, the new seating in the hall, the expanded dining area, the full roof replacement and the revamped reception area.

Above all, though, what shines through all the 40 pieces (and, indeed, through all the copies of Ferrers News they introduce) are the students' achievements. These range from excellent reports about their behaviour, to how well year 7s have settled into their new school, to times when they have come to me to show their work, to their many sporting and artistic achievements, to terrific exam results and on to a wide range of awards, cups, medals and certificates they have won. This is the heartbeat of the place. Everything that has happened here over those 40 issues has been to support our students to be the very best they can be. They have paid us back with their many achievements.

And so I look back on all this with considerable pride and delight. I wish all in the Ferrers community more of the same success in the years to come. I will continue to log on to the website to carry on reading future copies of Ferrers News to see all the exciting events that continue to be a part of this great school. I promise I'll read at least the next 40!

*Jonathan Giles*

Head Teacher

### **Editor's Letter**

Dear readers

Welcome to the final edition of Ferrers News this academic year. So, the exams are done and those students who are not in Y11 or Y13 are receiving their results and looking at what they can achieve next. Those students in Y11 and Y13 who have left have to be much more patient in waiting for theirs. Let's hope that, when they get their results, they were worth the wait.

As those students move on, or return as Y12s in September, it reminds us that staff move on too. Obviously Mr Giles leaving is momentous but it is also with sadness that we see other colleagues go too. We wish them all the best. Hopefully the achievements and events recounted below will remind them of the great times they have no doubt had whilst working at The Ferrers.

*The Ferrers News Team*

## ART COMPETITION AT CHICHELE



Higham Ferrers Tourism Business and Community Partnership invited The Ferrers School to join in the Chichele Garden Fair Community Event 2017 which was held on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> May.

The students were asked to create a piece of art in response to the theme **Walled Kitchen Gardens**. Such gardens were a feature of many large estate gardens where fruit, vegetables and flowers were grown. Chichele College is a good example of a local walled garden. The secular canons would have grown herbs for healing and medicinal purposes, vegetables and fruit for the kitchen and flowers to adorn the church.

All the students that entered independently went away and researched the theme to gain inspiration and ideas and then chose appropriate materials that showed their skill to their best to produce a high standard and range of interesting pieces of art.

The competition was sponsored by Colemans who very kindly donated the prizes for the competition.

June 2017

## **YEAR 7 CYCLING TEAM**



Our Year 7 Cycling team won the Level 2 Go Cycling district tournament at Manor on Friday. This enabled them to enter into the Level 3 School Games on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July at Moulton College. Unfortunately they were not as successful at this level but thoroughly enjoyed themselves, nonetheless.

07.07.17

## **YEAR 12 FUTURES WEEK**

Students from all the TENC schools have spent this week thinking about their futures! The week started with a very hot visit to the Universities' Conference which provided a unique opportunity for them, and anyone supporting them, to explore the wide range of options available when they leave the 6<sup>th</sup> Form. Whether they were interested in applying to university or looking at alternative pathways, they all found something that interested them.

To give students a real insight into the world of work, all were given the opportunity of up to three days' work experience placement in a relevant and meaningful context. Students found some amazing placements and we look forward to hearing all about their experiences.



The week culminated in the first TENC Futures Conference where students were treated to an amazing range of speakers from a whole range of different career pathways. What an exciting bunch of inspirational people! Our keynote speaker whet our appetites with his tale of his journey from a farmer's son to a premium distiller of Warner and Edwards gin. His examples of Elderflower, Rhubarb, Honey Bee and Sloe Gin have smashed a highly competitive market. With the provenance of using Queen Victoria's rhubarb patch what better marketing ploy could there be?!

We also heard from people who have forged paths into teaching, nursing, banking and industry. All our guests had really different and exciting routes into their career paths, such as journalism at university, writing for the BBC, being an actor before becoming a nurse, becoming an architect and setting up a business from scratch. We hope our students are equally inspired by the event which illustrates that anything can be achieved when you make a choice to take a chance to change your life.

Elaine Brooker, Director, The East Northamptonshire College, 23.06.17

## **ENGINEERING IS NOT JUST FOR BLOKES**



On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 12 The Ferrers students from years 7 – 9 visited the University of Northampton to take part in a day aimed at encouraging more women to enter careers linked to Engineering.

The day started with a presentation by Christine Powley-Williams who shared with us the journey she had taken to reach her current position which inspired the girls to engage in the taster workshops. Workshops on offer included: Slime and Whose Skin is it Anyway?, Ultrasonic Non-destructive Evaluation and Meet Red, Smurf and Friends and from these ‘taster’ sessions the girls signed up to participate in a longer more focused workshop later in the day.

The remainder of the day was spent listening to a second speaker who explained many of the roles in her company and answered lots of questions from the audience. Following lunch the girls had a chance to network with the students from the other schools attending which was a new experience for them.

All the students involved rose to the challenges of the day and were a credit to The Ferrers. The girls would also like to thank Mrs Kenton who not only organised the event but drove the mini bus so we were able to attend.

26.06.17

## **YEAR 11 PROM**

On Friday we celebrated our year 11 students’ hard work and determination at their prom. After 5 years at The Ferrers, this was a great night for them to dress up, let their hair down and enjoy the evening (and that was just some of the staff!).



The students strutted down the red carpet and through the giant Oscars to be greeted by an award winning photographer, sweets galore, mocktails, old school arcade games for entertainment and a dance floor that was packed for the whole night.



Towards the end of the evening, our Prom King and Queen were crowned; Ollie Alexander and Cerys Walker shone during their coronation. We had our all-round 'good egg', Emily Draper, hardest worker Indra Warr, most likely to break a world record Penny Jones-Mackay, most likely to become a millionaire George Stanbrook and last, but certainly not least, our best 'turn around' Olivia Graziano. We wish all our year 11s a fantastic

summer, the best of luck with their GCSE results and look forward to welcoming many of them back in to Sixth Form next year.

27.06.17

## ARTS WEEK



During the first week of July, the Music Department helped celebrate Arts Fest with a variety of events aimed at a wide variety of students. The week kicked off with performances and workshops by our resident DJ and Music production tutors FutureDJs. These included hands-on DJing workshops, composition skill sessions, live performances and a session delivered in partnership with our strings teacher.



The week continued with live performances by a variety of students both as solo artists and bands at break and lunchtimes performing work they had rehearsed throughout the year, as well as impromptu performances on piano outside the canteen. As part of the faculties Thursday night celebration of the Arts, there was a music concert showcasing the talents of our students performing to a packed audience in the Drama studio, this was followed by the

final performance of the year 13 band who as part of their set played compositions they had written as part of their contemporary music course this year.

07.07.2017

## **PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS CONFERENCE**

What an amazing opportunity for The East Northamptonshire College! Four of our outstanding female students were privileged to be selected to attend the Murray Edwards College Pathways To Success conference in July.

The programme was designed to encourage outstanding young women to succeed academically and in their chosen career and to show the opportunities Cambridge University offers to our most able girls. Alex Curtis, Caitlin Mitchell and Kathryn Stretch from Rushden Academy and Lois Gorst from The Ferrers School attended the awe inspiring two day residential conference. They stayed overnight in student rooms overlooking the beautiful grounds, dined in formal hall, and took part in discussions and workshops about opportunities and success, including detailed information about applying to the University of Cambridge.



They had the chance to get to know current students and academic staff at Murray Edwards College and listen to some highly successful and awe inspiring female graduates who have used their Cambridge experience as a gateway to incredible careers. On the second day they were all able to attend

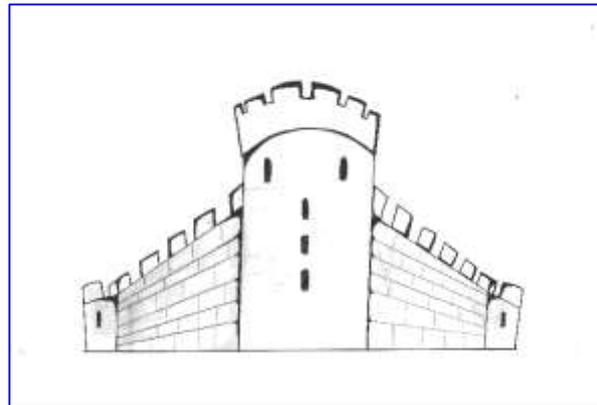
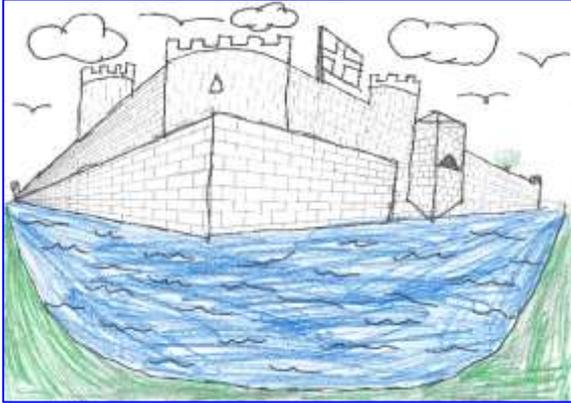
University style tutorials in their chosen subject areas, with sessions run by some of the top academics in the country.

It was a truly memorable couple of days, so much enjoyed by all of them.

Elaine Brooker, Director of TENC, 11.07.17

## WARWICK CASTLE

Following their recent visit, Year 7 students drew their impressions of Warwick Castle as part of their Graphics course with Ms Leech, using two point perspective.



14.07.17

## ROTARY PUBLIC SPEAKING

Each year the TENC schools compete against each other in a debating competition. The students have to obey the rules of formal debate and try to convince the judges using a variety of persuasive oratory skills. Each year The Ferrers do very well in this competition

Well done to Chloe Turner, Megan Rickard and Charlotte Kemp who did us proud and were robbed of first place by just 2 points.

10.07.17



During the run up to their English exam the Ferrers News team were practising their creative writing as part of their revision. They were very excited to share their creations in this publication.

### **The Cabin**

It was teeming with rain. The forest was a blackout and weeks had past. I had stumbled around this murky forest and never had I seen the log cabin in front of me. The light through the keyhole was a ray of sunshine in the gloom. I felt safe again like I was before my life had fallen apart. BANG! BANG! BANG! The door opened but no one was inside. Nothing was inside!

Suddenly, the door slammed behind me. It was locked! Many questioned rushed through my head and I couldn't think straight. Soon I heard a voice, a calm voice, a reassuring voice. I didn't hear what it muttered because I was out faster than a bulb. I noticed my body being lifted but from now on I was unsure of everything...

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! "She's waking up." Is what I heard when I woke up.

"Where am I?" I questioned.

"The hospital." replied the voice.

"I don't want to be here!" I exclaimed trying to get up.

"No! Don't get up." squealed the voice.

"I can't be here!" I screamed "They will find me. Kill me!"

"The only person killing you will be me." said the voice. It all clicked into place, what happened. But as I tried to run I was stopped by the only thing keeping me alive. As I tried to run I realised I could breathe on my own. I saw his gun on his belt. I grabbed it by reflex. BANG! I could see red ... I had killed a man with his own weapon. I ran as far away as possible.

By Chantelle Sparks

### **Deep In the Woods**

Many trees have fallen down,  
Dead stumps surround me like a killer clown,

What awaits me deep in the woods?  
Fearless fiends in black hoods.

Just as the clock struck nine,  
A wave of fear tingles down my spine,  
I've never been so scared and cold  
But then comes out a man who's hairy and bold.

Sluggish eyebrows and a bearded face,  
He was carrying a mace,  
Next a werewolf howling in the night,  
I could tell that he wanted a fight.

A zombie making terrible noises  
The sound of so many trembling voices,  
And now I've told you my story is done,  
If you ever go into the woods, make sure you run!

By Rhys Ackroyd

### **The Car Crash**

Keep focus, please, at all times. Don't make the mistake of turning in your seat, just to check on the kids. Please don't make the mistake of thinking you could get away with swerving the yellow light at the last second. Try to avoid turning into that round-about while that lorry is in the same lane. I didn't try. I didn't care.

Maybe it was the music, or the crying of the baby in the background, or the man on my left who still had his indicator on, but I let my eyes wander for ever so short a time, and just like that, quicker than a light switch, the car was on its side.

The baby had stopped crying.

The radio was cutting in and out.

The windscreen was in pieces, lodged in my arms and face.

The car that had collided with me was wedged into mine; I couldn't see the driver.

I tried to see him, tried to lift my head and find him in the havoc. The sound of someone's frantic voice on the phone told me he was safe, calling the emergency services.

There's only a few minute between the floor, and the hospital, being told my only child was lost to my accident, that my husband was on his way, not to worry, because the driver of the other car lived.

Keep focus, at all times, please. It costs more than just your life.

By Eleanor Trice

### **Into the Woods**

My head feels groggy,  
There's banging in my ears  
Like drums played in order  
Or romans marching with spears.  
I wake up  
And open my eyes  
And ponder on those little white lies.  
They were harmless at first  
But they grew worse and worse.  
Now I'm in the woods,  
Where nothing is right,  
And wear green hoods  
And wander until night.  
Where trees make secret passageways  
That lead to a different time of day,  
Arching their roots to different rooms  
That only hold doom:  
One with a boy made of wood  
Who talks to a cricket who never could;  
One full of ocean and a mystical sea  
With a curious mermaid lives that I'll never meet;  
One with a street rat and Abu the monkey  
Who dance on rooftops thinking they're funky;  
And one more with robots who fall in love  
All while living in the stars above.  
But I don't belong in any of these places,  
Not with cars who train to win races,  
So I rest my head upon my grassy pillow  
And sleep under the weeping willows.

By Grace Adkins

## **My Monster**

Monsters scary, monsters bad,  
Monsters ROAR and make you sad -  
All monsters should have had,  
Anger management so they're less mad.

Hear the stomping of their feet,  
This is what they like to eat,  
Little girls in pink dresses,  
Or young lads who make messes.

Through the keyhole what will I find?  
A monster so big that it blew my mind,  
Purple spikes all down his back,  
He looked like he might attack.

Huge body and an enormous head,  
Not to mention his face was bright red.  
A wave of fear tingles down my spine,  
I have to keep that secret, he is mine.

By Rhys Ackroyd

## **The Forest**

Forest, Darkness, Heaven  
Forever lost in the dark,  
Over with this newfound mark,  
Ready for the night ahead,  
Echoes in the darkened dead,  
Silence falls all around,  
Tears under the fallen tree.

Dread is all I can see,  
Abandonment at the time of three,  
Regret all the nights alone,  
Kindness is in my bones.

Never leave the moon's glare,  
Accept my fate - if I dare,  
Sadness always in my eye,  
Starving as I fall and die.

Hunger leaves me in peace,  
Ended pain in the leaves,  
Anger gone forever more,  
Vulnerable outside this door,  
Endless food on my plate,  
Never see again my mate.

By Chantelle Sparks



**Come and join us!**

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