

## Public Speaking Success

On 21 January two teams from The Blue School attended the 'Youth Speaks' competition organised by the Rotary Club. Hattie Pinches 8VC, Sophia Radford 8VC and Isabel Cooley 8VC entered the intermediate competition and won first place which entitled them to a place in the district semi finals. Evie Philips 11GL, Charlie White 11GL and Katy Morgan 11HW entered the senior competition. They won second place and also gained a place in the district semi final. The district semi finals were held on 8 and 9 February and both teams won second place in their category entitling them to move forward to the district finals on 4 March.

Once again our teams gave creditable performances but this was to be the end of their public speaking for this year as they came outside the ranking for the National Finals. Congratulations and well done all involved!



## Regional Junior Maths Challenge

On the 24 February, four of our young students followed in the competitive footsteps of many other Blue School students. Only the previous evening our Y8 Footballers had travelled the same route and came away with two wins against their Millfield opponents. Today, however, it wasn't just Millfield opposing our four 'Mathletes' there were sixteen other schools that had entered as well.

The four students, Anna Williams 9HA, Robyn Wyatt 8AS, Alex Main 9BR and Henry Mansfield 8DM performed excellently, finishing just outside the top three. All four had a great day and as a Maths Teacher it was wonderful to see 72 young Mathematicians fully engrossed for the whole day solving Mathematical problems, and still keen to talk Maths on the journey home. All four were a credit to the school and a pleasure to take out for the day.

## Sports News

We would like to congratulate two of our Y11 students, Jess Fullman and Sam Edwards. They have both been selected for the Somerset Under 18 Tennis Team. Jess Fullman travelled to Sunderland recently to represent Somerset in the Girls' Under 18 Tennis Team and Sam Edwards travelled to Redbridge, Ilford to play for Somerset in the Under 18 Boys' Team.

Congratulations also to Thomas Horton, Y10, for being the only state school student selected to play Hockey for the County Team.

Well done all!

## Y7 Motte and Bailey Castle Competition - Friday 26 February 2010

At lunchtime on the Friday, the annual History Department's Motte and Bailey Castle Competition was held. As usual we had a high number of entrants, and the standard was extremely high. The castles were all different shapes and sizes, from small ones that could fit into a Tupperware box, to castles that required 2 people to lift them! They were also made of a variety of materials, including desiccated coconut that had been dyed green especially. The judging was very difficult, and the History Department were looking for historical accuracy in the models that were being judged. Mr Cooper, the Head of Y7 was also present, to help with the final decision.

After much deliberation, the winners were announced as follows, and a formal presentation was made to the winners in Y7 Assembly on the 16 March.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bea de Quidt
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Alice Meen
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Casey Hall
- 4<sup>th</sup> Calum Weeks

Special Commendations to Bill Ball - 7TL, Stanley Whittaker - 7TL and Ben Garrett - 7TL. We would like to thank everyone for the considerable efforts they made, and look forward to the same standard again next year.

## Free Range, Free Flying, Handmade and Eco Friendly Art Club

Art club members have had feather filled lunch breaks this term. Using collected carrier bags, students have worked tirelessly wrapping and wrapping and wrapping to create pom-pom style constructions using the recycled plastic. The layers created bright and multi coloured chicken creations which began to take on personalities of their own.

Once hatched, the chickens are then shaped using topiary style scissor skills and additions such as tail feathers, eyes, beaks, combs and legs giving them their final individual characteristics. Visit the carrier bag chickens in their new roost, main Reception at the Blue School.



## Ceramic Club for Gifted and Talented Students

Gifted and Talented students have been given the opportunity to learn from the Art Department's talented ceramicist Denise Matthews in a 6 week extra curricular project exploring the techniques and skills using our 3 pottery wheels.

Students will combine their individually thrown pieces into hand built works inspired by artists such as the Saatchi favourite Grayson Perry. The student's ceramic works will develop the students' skill base through various processes of firing, glazing and application of

transfers. Be sure to admire the finished pieces which will be on display in our Easter exhibition in the Gallery Café.

## Ski Trip 2010

As is now traditional, the beginners group attending the ski trip were offered the chance of a lesson at the Churchill Dry Ski Slope before going to the snow at Easter. 10 beginners went with Miss Castle and Mr Newbery to give it a go on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February. Boots were fitted and skis were provided, nearly everybody had remembered gloves and off they went. "No, you must lean forward", the instructor called as Fern went down the slope – arms went round like windmills and screams rang out over the quiet valley (not just from Fern but most members of the group).



They stepped up the slope, got themselves into position and let go jumping when told, skiing with eyes shut when they were asked then back up again to have another go and generally enjoying themselves (or at least I think so!). After an hour and a go on the ski lift (ask Lilly what happened sometime) the

beginners thanked the instructor and were driven back to school. "Can we go again Sir", seemed to be the cry from the group – it had obviously been a successful visit.

We are going to Colorado at the end of the term (4 -11 April 2010) and are now in the final preparation stages. The students will all now start to become fitter, make sure that they have the right equipment and clothing, sort out pocket money and passports and start to think of what present to bring back for Mum and Dad. Roll on April! Mr Newbery.

## Haiti Mufti Day as planned by The Fundraising Team

Thank you so much to everyone who helped BSC The Fundraising Team this Mufti Day. We were very excited to raise a record breaking £2000!!! All of the support came from our students and staff. Some students did events to raise even more money for Haiti like being silent all day, non-stop humming and don't stop talking after assembly. The Fundraising Team worked very hard all day with their collection tins to boost the total and were captured by a Wells Journal Photographer on the day. This fundraising was further helped when the unbeaten staff team faced harsh opposition from the students in a lunch time basketball game to raise even more money for Haiti. Calum Weeks 7WA, Fundraising Team, Blue School Council.

## The Tale of Y7 History Fieldtrip to Chepstow Castle

"As the temperature dropped below zero a band of fearless knights – The Knights of the Blue, embarked upon their annual quest under the command of Sir Richard of Wiltshire. With passports in hand they crossed the mighty Severn River fending off the hordes of Celtic warriors who were intent on thwarting their mission!



Armed with sword and shield (aka pen and clipboard) the knights laid siege to the dark formidable fortress on the Welsh borders that is Chepstow Castle. Whilst the defenders sat secure behind the castle's impenetrable defences, the attacking knights looked for a way of breaching the castle walls! ....." And so began this year's Y7 History fieldtrip to Chepstow Castle. Their mission: to understand how the Normans built and used castles to control the British countryside following the conquest of 1066.

## D&T Y7 Designer Pen Competition 2010

In the Y7 Assembly on Monday 16 March Mrs Morris presented prizes to the winners of this year's Design and Technology Designer Pen Competition. Over 50 Y7 students entered the competition with an amazing range of designs and ideas. This year the standard was again very high and gave the sponsors of the competition, SWAN Stationers in Wells, a very difficult task deciding on the winners.

We are again very grateful to SWAN Stationers in Wells for their continued sponsorship of this competition. Congratulations to all our winners.

### Designer Pen Awards - March 2010

First Prize            Hannah McCann 7DS and Shana Tyson 7SB

Second Prize        Bea de Quidt 7TL, Harley Dock 7DS and Ed Dickens 7SB

Runners-up Jack Gardner 7AW, Jevons 7DS, Richard Jones 7TL, Ellie Lewis 7TL, Claudia Lavendar 7MW and Lauren Patterson 7RA.

## Citizenship Cycle 4 March 2010

Four boys took part in a 10 mile sponsored Cycle ride in support of the Haiti Earthquake Appeal.

Jake Piers-Mantell, Joseph Rendall, Mike Gouldney and Jed Hampson arranged the ride themselves and provided the equipment. They collected sponsorship, developed the route, completed some of the paperwork themselves and arranged the date.

Mr Newbery went along as supporter, first aider and photographer. The photographs show what a good day it was!



## Y12 visit the UCAS Higher Education Convention



Y12 students had the opportunity to visit the Higher Education Convention, which was held at the University of the West of England, Bristol.

The Convention provided an ideal opportunity for students to obtain professional advice from representatives of a wide range of Universities and Colleges from all parts of the U.K. offering higher education, and to explore whether or not higher education is for them. Our tutorial programme this term has helped to prepare students for this visit.

Most students felt that the visit was extremely useful. They returned, not only with a bag (or two) filled with prospectuses, but also with a focus for their journey through education.

## Music Notes

### Blue School Chamber Choir.

Zoe Fitzsimmons (Y13), Ruth Timms, Evie Phillips, Charlotte White and Katy Morgan (Y11) sang an anthem at the Mothering Sunday Service at Saint Cuthbert's Church in Wells on 14 March and performed three other songs 'Yesterday', 'Killing me softly' and 'Lollipop' (from the Dell advert) at the Music For Youth festival in Taunton on Saturday 21 March. They received lots of compliments at both events. Well done girls!

### GCSE Music Student Conference

The Y10 music group went to Birmingham with Miss Wilkins and Miss Cox. Many of our students volunteered to take part in the performances during the day and contributed to the Q&A sessions. The students were fantastic in participating, getting on with each other, being punctual and tried very hard with the tasks they had to do at the conference. We went to Frankie and Benny's restaurant in Gloucester on the way back. Well done Y10 for a fantastic day out.

### Y11 GCSE Music Composition Recording

Y11 have spent the last four months writing their final compositions for GCSE Music and learning to play each other's pieces for the recording sessions. A variety of fantastic pieces have been written, many

of which we will hope you will be able to hear at the forthcoming GCSE Music concert (date TBC) and 'Jazz and Acoustic Night' in St Cuthbert's Church, Wells on Thursday 22 April, 7.30pm.

## 'West Side Story'

A group of students went to see a performance of this GCSE Music set work at the Victoria Rooms in Bristol on Tuesday 22 March as part of the GCSE Music course. We had seats up in the balcony where we could see all the instruments in the orchestra pit and had a great view of the stage. Thanks again to all the students who took part in the trip for an enjoyable evening out.

## 'Jazz and Acoustic Night'

Our next concert is on Thursday 22 April at 7.30pm in St. Cuthbert's Church. It will feature soloists from years 7-13 and a wide range of musical items. Tickets are available from The Blue School Reception priced £3.50/£2. We hope to see you there!

## Y13 Politics Residential, 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010.

We met at Bath Spa Station at 6am on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March to make our annual visit to London. The group were very quiet on the way to London, but soon perked up once we arrived. Our first visit was a trip up Big Ben. We made our way up the stairs and were in the clock room for the chimes at 9.45am, in order to see how the mechanism worked. After that we completed the climb, just in time to be at the top for the 10am bells. Fortunately we had been provided with ear plugs!

After that we met with the private secretary to David Heathcoat-Amory, as unfortunately he was in Brussels on a select committee visit that day. We were able to have a tour of Portcullis House, and visited a Select Committee on Home Affairs, after which we were given a guided tour of the Houses of Westminster. One of the highlights was seeing the chamber itself, as well as the spot where Charles I was condemned to death in Westminster Hall, and the statute to which the Suffragettes chained themselves during the campaign for votes for women. We were also able to attend the chamber, and see Foreign Questions, between David Milliband and William Hague.

The next day we attended a revision conference run by Philip Allen at the Emmanuel Centre in Westminster. This was very useful, and provided us with a number of tips which should come in useful for the summer exam. After that we were able to stop off at the new Supreme Court building in Westminster Square, and were fortunate enough to see into all 3 of the court rooms.

We eventually got back to Bath Spa, just after 6pm, exhausted, but all feeling that it had been a worthwhile and informative trip, which allowed us to put the political knowledge we have been studying into context.

## Y9 WWI Battlefields Trip 2010

This year 36 Y9s and 4 teachers went to France for the school's annual WWI Battlefields Trip, this consisted of visiting many important sites related to a variety of different battles during WWI.

The Friday - much to the delight of teachers and children alike – involved waking up at a ridiculously antisocial time and meeting at the school at 6:15am, followed by a 5 hour trip to the port of Dover, a 2 hour trip on a ferry to the French port of Calais and another 2 hour coach trip to 'Le Chateau de Broutel,' where we were to spend our nights. On arrival we were allocated our rooms, shortly followed by dinner and a quiz. The Saturday was a very busy day.

After having to wake up at 7:40 (French time) and leaving the chateau at 9:30, we then went on *another* 2 hour coach journey to the Belgian countryside where we visited a number of cemeteries. The first, Essex Farm, was a British/commonwealth cemetery which housed over 1,000 burials, it was also where John McCrae served as a Canadian field doctor and later went on to write the poem 'In Flanders Field.' We then drove on to visit Langemark Cemetery, a German cemetery in which there are over 40,000 burials, over half of these were in a mass grave near the entrance, this was due to the fact that the

Belgian and French governments did not give Germany much space for grave yards, this resulted in there being lots of mass graves, and the smaller graves in the cemetery often had more than one body in them.

To make sure that they fit they were placed in an upright position, this also meant they could not 'Rest in Peace.' One of the most famous visitors to this cemetery was Adolf Hitler; he visited it after his successful invasion of France in June 1940 as part of his victory parade. After a quick drive down the road, we arrived at Tyne Cot Cemetery, the name is said to have been given by the men of the Northumbrian Fusiliers who fought in 1917, and they saw a similarity between a nearby ruined barn and the cottages in Tyneside.



Tyne Cot is the biggest British military cemetery in the world, with 11,956 burials. The panels in the back wall hold the names of 34,888 missing, including two boys from The Blue, Private Edward H. Pullen and Captain F. Percy Wheeldon. After travelling through the scenic countryside for a little while, we arrived at the Hoge crater museum, where there were lots of old shells and ammunition, which had been turned into decorative ornaments. We went a little way up the road and we arrived at Sanctuary Wood and Hill 62, the name was given by British troops who used its shelter to regroup during the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Ypres. The trenches preserved in the wood are British front line trenches belonging to a system known as the Vincent St. Jam Row. The trenches are one of very few perfectly preserved, and when I say '*perfectly preserved*' I mean perfectly, apart from the corrugated iron lining the trench (although this was so rusted, it looked like it could've been from WWI). There was water ALL the way around the trench, and so there was bound to be thick mud, *which there was!* We walked through tunnels which were the key in the success of the capture of hill 62, and the ground above was littered with shell holes, now filled with water, and unlike last year, no one fell in. After all this we eventually arrived in the town of Ypres, one of the most important towns during WWI, which was almost all destroyed! While in Ypres we were shown around an exhibition full of WWI memorabilia, some of which was only found fairly recently, the exhibition was based in the old St. George's Church. After this we were allowed free time in Ypres, during which we bought far too much chocolate! We then met up and went to a restaurant in the main square, shortly followed by the daily Last Post service at the Menin Gate, where two pupils laid a wreath in remembrance of all the soldiers lost, and particularly for the soldiers from the Blue. We then made our way back to the Chateau after a very emotional, educational, and most of all tiring day!



The Sunday was a much shorter and not as hectic day, visiting the various battlefields of the Somme, northern France. We arrived in the small town of Albert and picked up a lovely French guide who showed us round the many sites involved in the Battle of the Somme. First of all we visited the Lochnagar Crater, the biggest surviving mine crater on the Western front. The British sappers dug a tunnel underneath the German frontline and planted 60,000lb of explosives, but unfortunately the Germans heard the British and retreated to their support trench, so when it came to the detonation of the mine (which was later than planned) they actually killed more British soldiers than German. The blast itself was felt in London and Paris alike. We soon arrived at the

Thiepval Memorial where we held a private memorial service, dedicated to another two soldiers from The Blue, Mrs Woodley read a poem, followed by Sam Biggs doing a quick reading, another two pupils laid a wreath at the stone of remembrance and then Joe Martin played The Last Post on the Trumpet. We then made our way back into Albert, where we visited a museum, which used to be an old WW2 air raid shelter underneath the town, there were lots of old weapons and objects from the Great War in the museum. We eventually emerged into a museum shop, where one or two of us bought old army helmets or Berets (actually from WWI). Our Final stop of the day was at Newfoundland Park, this was the sight of the largest commonwealth regimental loss in history. On the 1st of July 1916, 7:30, the shelling of the Germans had stopped after two weeks and the Newfoundlanders, with aid from the British were given

the order to advance. Because of the relentless shelling they believed they could just walk over no-man's-land, in formation, and take the enemy trenches. Oh, how wrong they were! They made it a mere 120 yards before they were gunned down by German machine guns, 801 soldiers died that day, only 68 soldiers made it back alive and every single officer was either killed or wounded, it was a terrible waste of life. We made it back to the chateau in time for dinner and a disco, during which some teachers (who shall remain nameless...) danced.

The Monday, our long trip was nearly over, there was just one thing left on the list... Shopping! We spent two hours in a large Hyper Marché wandering around a gazing in awe at the amazing French confectionary, we then made our way to the ferry and, eventually, to Dover. We arrived back at school earlier than expected (thankfully) and I'm sure we all had early nights for school the next day. This trip was a wonderful experience, and I urge you to take up the offer if you are ever given the opportunity, it really was enlightening. By Joe Martin 9MG.

## Update of UKYP Voting & Results

Every year young people across the county get the opportunity to become involved in UK youth parliament. It is a chance for 11-18 years to put their voices, opinions and thoughts across to their peers, local and national government. In October young people are asked to put themselves forward for election to represent their areas. Last October two students from Wells Blue (Jacob Pitt-Brown 9MF & Tim Deamer 9MF) and a student from Crispin School successfully went through to the next round to become elected to represent Mendip and Sedgemoor. There were six students from across the area, each felt equally passionate about making change for young people now and in the future.

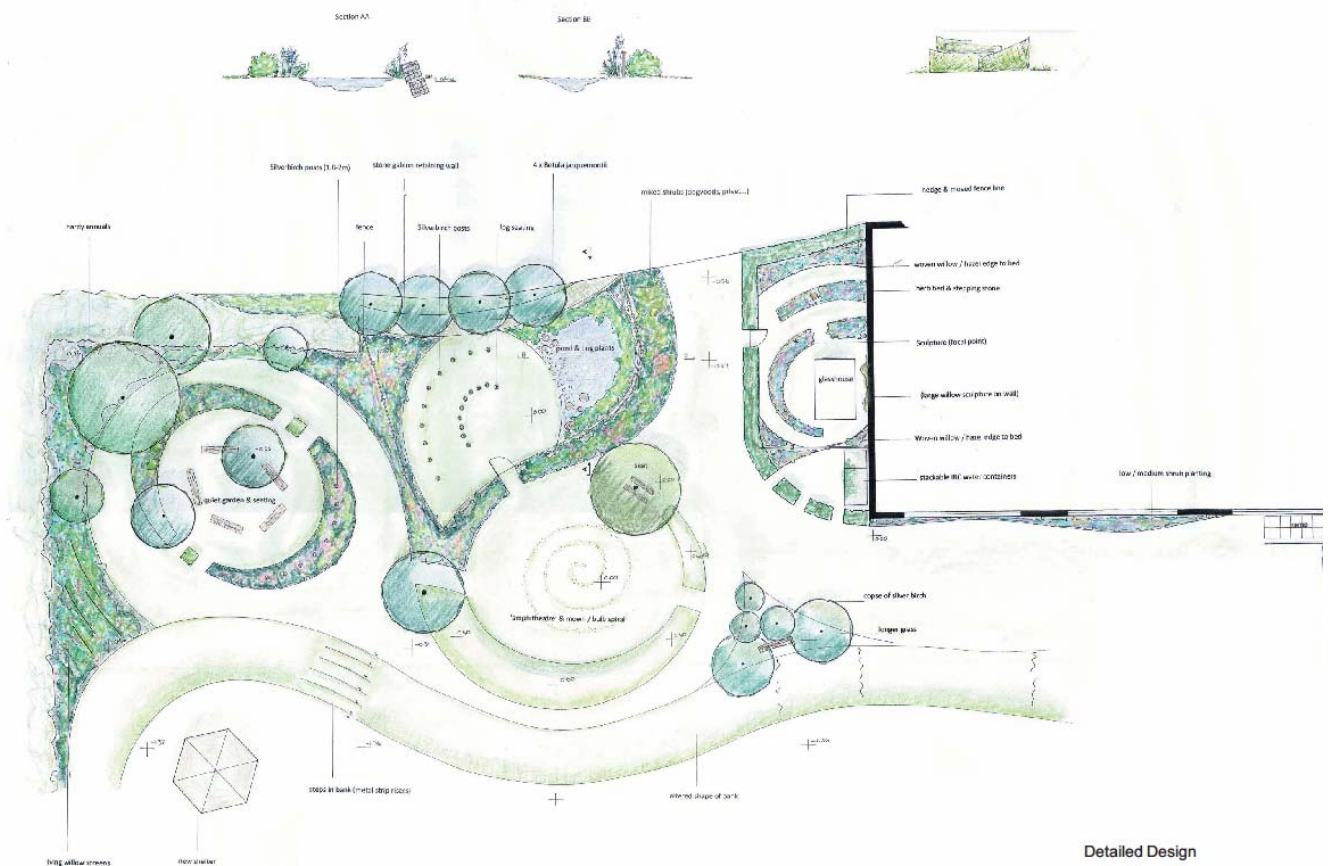
January saw Jacob and Tim competing against each other, they presented their manifestos to the whole school, bravely stepping up and talking in front of each year group in assemblies. The final votes and candidates were presented on 2 February. Unfortunately there could only be a Member of Youth Parliament (MYP) and one Deputy (DMYP) for each area, Tim was pipped at the post by Jodie from Sedgemoor, but became her deputy. Both Tim and Jacob worked hard and fought tirelessly to make themselves heard for the future of young people across the area. Also, by working with their teachers they were able to increase the amount of young people voting on last year, West Mendip as a whole increased by 51%, much of which was down to The Blue School. Well done Tim and Jacob, I've really enjoyed working with you both and you should be very proud of yourselves. On behalf of Tim and Jacob, we would like to say a big thank you to all the students who voted, Mr Colman, Mr Ramsden, Miss Cox and Mrs Burgess and to all the teachers that supported the campaign.

## Students from Blue School Council at Westminster Launch

On March the 18th, there was a massive Launch of the Learning to Lead national pilot evaluation by the University of Cambridge at Westminster Central Hall. This is the groundbreaking work we at the Blue have pioneered. This was what Cambridge University thought of the national pilot of Learning to Lead in 13 secondary schools throughout England which has taken place over the last 2 years. It was also an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate an incredible journey that began with a very few students and ended up here!! To quote Barry Sheerman M.P Chair of The Children Families and Schools Select Committee: *During my select committee enquiry examining citizenship in schools, I had the good fortune of discovering the Learning to Lead program at the Blue School in Wells....my committee and I were amazed by the way in which the students in the school were empowered to lead and actively share in the organisation and management of their education at their institution...I believe that it should be at the heart of every school in the country.*

In their evaluation, they urged other schools to join in and the results are very positive. We took 25 students from The Blue but at the launch event, we were just a few of so many who had come to talk about what they value about Learning to Lead! A film of the event will soon be available on Youtube. In response to a question from a delegate who wanted to know just how many students at The Blue are involved and benefit from the work of the council, one of our students made the point that even though there were between 200-300 students working in self-managing teams, there was no doubt that everyone in the school community was touched in some way and the consensus was that the whole school community was better for it! Student lead teams continue to grow and be created. Current new teams include the Radio Team, Science Garden Team and Mini Mammals Team.

## BSC Science Garden Plan including 'Sustainable Shelter' with living roof and Quiet Team garden.



## Catering Training

The catering training happening at The Blue is going from strength to strength. The learners, 28 in all, are made up of people of all ages who are looking for a route into professional catering. There are apprentices who are either programme or employer led, adults working at the school or for other school food providers, young people and adults working in pubs and restaurants plus the school's own students.

Learners choose from two routes, either NVQ at Levels 2 or Level 3 in Professional Cookery or NVQ Level 2 in Multiskilled Hospitality Services, followed by Level 3 Supervision; the latter qualification being more suitable for those wishing to work in a 'front of house' role rather than in the kitchen!

NVQ courses are designed to develop practical skills and knowledge to prepare for a career in the catering industry. They take place in a realistic working environment where learners produce a range of quality meals that may be sold in the school catering outlets. The school has regular 'restaurant' days where staff and visitors can book in and enjoy a two course meal cooked entirely by the trainees.

The course is delivered wholly in the school's training kitchen which is adjacent to the main production kitchen. It consists of planning and assessment, tutorials and observation of your practice in the workplace. It covers a broad range of cookery skills and techniques suitable for basic menu items, progressing to more complex cooking techniques.

There are no formal requirements, but anyone with an interest in cooking, or who is undertaking voluntary or paid work within a Hospitality and Catering environment, where the skills you learn can be practised, will be best placed to join this course. It is necessary to hold a current Food Hygiene Certificate which can be achieved at the start of the course.

NVQ courses last approximately one year; some are fully funded depending on the age of the learner and the course involved. The school can advise on this.

An exciting development is the opportunity for our own students to join the Sixth Form in September as a catering trainee, either as part of an apprenticeship programme or by joining an NVQ programme alongside other qualifications. Interested students should contact the Head of Sixth Form. Would parents please look out for a school food questionnaire which will be available on the school website after the Easter break.

## Would you like to learn to cook?

Are you heading off to university in September, do you want to learn to cook on a budget or start cooking for yourself at home?

We are running a short series of cookery courses to get you started in the kitchen and how to budget your money when living away from home.

Courses are FREE and are being held on 21 & 28 April and 5, 12 & 19 May.

You will get to take home what you make and gain valuable life skills.

To sign up or to find out more information call Lisa Western or Charlie Chambers in Bailey Kitchen.

Places will be assigned to first come first served basis.

## Exam Results Summer 2010

GCE Thursday 19 August Milton Hall 0930-1200 noon

GCSE Tuesday 24 August Milton Hall 0930-1200 noon

## Computers - The Government Home Access Scheme

The Home access scheme is a Government drive to ensure more children from low income families have access to a computer and internet at home to support their learning.

If you are a low income family you could get a grant for:

- a computer
- one years internet access
- Service, safety features and support

To find out more information or to see if you qualify you can follow the link on The Blue School website home page or go direct to [www.homeaccess.org.uk](http://www.homeaccess.org.uk), alternatively you can telephone the Home Access Grant Helpline: 0333 200 1004.

## Notice to Parents regarding Mephedrone

At a recent meeting of secondary headteachers we heard reports concerning mephedrone - a 'legal high'. Somerset Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) were subsequently asked to prepare a briefing paper providing up to date factual information about mephedrone. For your information the paper which has been produced by the DAAT to provide a balanced view of the substance without causing undue panic or alarm can be seen on the Parents' Page of the school website.

## PTA Update

The PTA are now fundraising to purchase a dedicated building for the Blue School Council, whose many student teams work hard in so many varied ways (<http://blueschoolcouncil.org/>). We hope everyone will be very supportive – there's a number of ways you can help.

(1) Join the '100 Club' or renew your shares if they've expired. It costs as little as £12 per year, with a draw held every quarter. The last draw prizes were as follows:

First prize	£157 - no 8, S Jackson (donated to the BSC building fundraising).
Second prize	£47.10 - no 163, A Gundry.
Third prize	£31.40 - no 147, E De Pass.

Contact Kaye Millington (PTA 100 Club) via the Blue School Admin Office if you need forms or further details.

On 12 May we're having a Bags2School day (<http://www.bag2school.com/>). This is an organization that collects good quality second-hand clothing, shoes, textiles etc to resell to Eastern Europe and emerging markets and will pay us per tonne collected. Please bring/send whatever old clothes, shoes etc that you can to school on Wed 12 May before 12.45. We'll be collecting in the Scout Hut in Kennion Car Park or Kennion Foyer and you can put your donations in any plastic bag or bin bag. We will send out reminders closer to the time. The more we can collect, the more money we'll be paid to help the students at school, so please rummage around and see what you can send in.

After Easter we're launching a Sports Raffle. Tickets (50p each) will be on sale on Monday lunchtimes in Kennion Foyer. There are fantastic signed prizes, including a Michael Owens-signed Manchester United shirt and a Jonny Wilkinson-signed rugby ball - see the PTA page on the school website for a complete list of prizes.

Don't forget the annual October Quiz Night - we'll remind you about this later in the year.

Volunteer for Glastonbury stewarding. You may be too late for this year, but please contact Robin Horton (via the Blue School Admin office) and he can give you all the details.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 27 April 2010, 6.30 pm in the Atom Café, Kennion Hall. Please come along – we always need new people, especially now that we've undertaken such an exciting fundraising project. Anyone with enthusiasm and ideas, or just another pair of hands, will be really welcome! Please contact Jo Armstrong ([joarmstrong@phoncoop.coop](mailto:joarmstrong@phoncoop.coop)) or Di Harris ([soharris@btinternet.com](mailto:soharris@btinternet.com)) for any more information.

## The Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop will be closed for the Easter holiday from Friday 2 April – Friday 16 April (inclusive). It will re-open Saturday 17 April.

## ParentPay

ParentPay allows parents to pay for trips and activities over the Internet using either a debit or credit card; the system is available 24/7. One of the advantages of using ParentPay is that parents do not need to return the Permission Slip attached to letters; permission is given electronically at the time of making your payment. Parents may top-up their child's Smartcard – any top-up made via ParentPay will be credited automatically to the Smartcard by the following morning. A large number of parents are taking advantage of ParentPay and find it easy to use. We would like to encourage others to try it to see how quick and convenient it is. If any parent has lost their instructions, or secure log-on user name and password, please contact the Finance Office Team on 01749 836262.

## Reporting Absence

When your child is absent, please ring the school by 10am on the first and subsequent days of absence. On returning to school, your child should bring a note to the tutor confirming the reasons for absence. Our Attendance Secretary has a direct telephone line with Voicemail 01749 836210. Please use this number when reporting your child's absence or, alternatively, you can e-mail us at [attendtheblue@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:attendtheblue@educ.somerset.gov.uk).

## Diary Dates

01.04.10	Break up at 15.20 for Easter Holidays
02.04.10	Good Friday
19.04.10	Return to School Start of Summer Term
03.05.10	May Day bank holiday
20.05.10	Y11 Presentation Ceremony
27.05.10	Y8 Parents' Evening
28.05.10	Break up at 15.20 for half term
07.06.10	Return to school
10.06.10	Y7 Parents' Evening
17.06.10	Y10 Parents' Evening
25.06.10	INSET Day – school closed to students
30.06.10	Y6 Induction Day
30.06.10	Y6 Parents' Evening
01.07.10	Y11 Prom
09.07.10	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Ball
21.07.10	Students break up for the summer holidays
22.07.10	INSET Day – school closed to students
23.07.10	INSET Day – school closed to students

Remaining Inset Days for this year are Friday 25 June, Thursday 22 July and Friday 23 July 2010.

### Arrangements for start of Autumn Term 2010

01.09.10	INSET Day – school closed to students
02.09.10	Y7 and Y12 students return
03.09.10	All students return to school

Detailed school term and holiday calendars are available from:

[www.theblueschoolwells.co.uk](http://www.theblueschoolwells.co.uk)