

WOODHOUSE BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE COLLEGE

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER NO 92 - JULY 2010

Dear Parents and Carers

Well as I start to write this last newsletter to you this year and under the Woodhouse Business & Enterprise banner for the last time, I cannot believe my time at the school is almost over as the interim Headteacher. I have enjoyed the opportunity to guide the school through this year of transition towards the new Academy immensely and I have especially valued working with the staff, students, governors and you the parents. It has been a real pleasure to be part of, and to lead, such a committed group of people who want to do their best for others.

As you can see from this newsletter, it is again full of all the exciting and rewarding events that have made Woodhouse the improving school that it is. This improvement trend over the last four years has been recognised by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, who presented the school with a certificate in May for being one of the most improved schools in the country.

I have obviously got to know some students and their parents better than other this year but I have recently had the privilege of interviewing some Year 10 students who applied to become our prefects for next year. I was really impressed by their confidence, focussed commitment to the school and the pride they have in themselves. They are true ambassadors for the school.

I am not the only one leaving the school of course this summer. We have a few staff who are also going onto other things.

Mrs Thomas has gained promotion as the Head of Art and Design at another school in the town.

Dr Ingley is moving to a school in Loughborough as the second in the Science Department.

Mr Stringer is returning to his former school in mid-Staffordshire as a Mathematics Teacher.

Mr Tomkins is retiring after giving long service to the school within the Science Department.

We, of course, wish them well for the future in their careers or retirement.

I know the Academy will help provide many new and exciting opportunities for the students and the wider community. The new uniform and in a year's time the new school buildings will help raise standards and aspirations further and the Academy will aim to be outstanding in the near future.

I wish Ms Pickering and her staff every success in the new Academy and to the students themselves, the message, to always aim for the top and never accept second best; to be proud of what they achieve and look to be successful in life.

Thank you for your support throughout the year.

We will be finishing the academic year with a whole school Awards Assembly on Friday 23 July 2010 in order to celebrate student achievement. School will end at 12.30pm following the assembly.

Very best wishes for the future,

Mrs J M Hislop
Headteacher

Woodhouse Exhibition

Woodhouse Business & Enterprise College closes at the end of this term after 39 years of providing education for the local community. To mark this school is holding an exhibition of the time at Woodhouse during the last week of term. All students will have an opportunity to look around the exhibition during school time. We would like to extend a warm welcome to you to come and view the exhibition which will be open from Tuesday 20 July to Thursday 22 July from 11am until 5pm each day. If you have any memorabilia; old school photos, school uniform [blazers] or PE kit which we could borrow and will be returned then please contact the school or email exhibition@woodhouse-high.staffs.sch.uk.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Exhibition.

New uniform for September

On the 17 & 18 June, all students in current Years 7 – 10 were measured for their new uniform. All students who will be in Years 8 – 11 this September will be provided with a blazer, one shirt or blouse, an academy tie, rugby/hockey shirt, PE polo shirt and black sport socks. The uniform will be available to be picked up from the 'H' Block mobiles at Landau Forte Academy Tamworth as follows:

Wednesday 1st September for Y8 and Y9 students from 9am to 4pm.

Thursday 2nd September for Y10 and Y11 students from 10am to 5pm.

(Any Y8/9 parents that could not make it on the 1st September can also come this day)

If it is not possible for the uniform to be picked up on these days, it will be available to be picked up from the Buxton & Bonnett store in Middle Entry, Tamworth, from Saturday the 4 September 2010.

If any student was absent when the measuring for the new uniform took place, visit Buxton & Bonnett in Middle Entry who will provide the measuring there. Any student currently in Dyson or Rowling House will require a Landau blue academy tie and any student currently in Gates or Branson House will require a Forte red academy tie.

Here is a list of new uniform requirements for September:

Years 7-11 students (age 11-16)

- Black blazer/tailored jacket
- Plain white shirt or blouse with a collar (not sports shirt)
- Plain black or grey **tailored** trousers for boys and girls.
- Plain black or grey **tailored** skirt either pleated or straight - short skirts are not acceptable.
- Academy tie, (available from the Academy or Buxton & Bonnett)
- Academy lapel badge (shield shape with Academy logo) – optional (available from the Academy)

Years 12-13 students

- Navy, black or grey “business dress” suit (pinstripe is acceptable)

Or

- Plain navy, black or grey blazer/tailored jacket **and** navy, black or grey tailored trousers **or** navy, black or grey “business dress” skirt
- Shirt or blouse, with a collar, white or pale blue (not sports shirt)
- Post-16 Academy Tie (available from the Academy or Buxton & Bonnett) –
- Academy lapel badge – optional (available from the Academy)

Physical Education/Performing Arts kit

All students - compulsory items:

- Black tracksuit trousers
- Long sleeved reversible red/navy blue band hockey/rugby shirt
- White short sleeved polo shirt with collar with the logo on
- White socks
- Training shoes with non-marking soles (used also in Drama sessions)
- Black football/hockey socks
- Black shorts
- Plain black sweatshirt

Year 10 Prefects

Mrs Hislop, Mr Beck and the Heads of House have been interviewing those Year 10 students who applied for the position of prefect. Students had to give details of their experiences to date and reasons why they wanted to apply. During the interviews, students talked about their work experience, their achievements and the activities in which they are involved outside of school.

Each House now has seven prefects, with one selected to be the Senior House Prefect. Their remit is varied – they will be required to carry out duties, act as ambassadors and work with our younger students. Below is a list of our prefects for September:

Demi Folan	Rowling
Jessica Edwards	Rowling
Abbie Kizis	Rowling
Lauren Moore	Rowling
Emily Cowdrey	Rowling
Bethany Harwood	Rowling
Jake Savory	Rowling
Bradley James	Gates
Tom Coady	Gates
Josh Stinson	Gates
Joe Robinson	Gates
Luke Scattergood	Gates
Jordanna Price	Gates
Katie Clark	Gates
Emily Trood	Branson
Connor Weaving	Branson
Alex Shinnick	Branson
Hannah Dell	Branson
Patrick O'Boyle	Branson
Leanne Marsh	Branson
Sophie Hoey	Dyson
Ricky Hawkes	Dyson
Ryan O'Leary	Dyson
Charlotte Qinton	Dyson
Heather Allison	Dyson
Ryan Dobson	Dyson
Phillipa Murray Hogarth	Dyson

Aim Higher Road Show at Woodhouse Business & Enterprise College

One of the Government's key goals is to widen the participation in Higher Education by raising the aspirations of young people from all backgrounds including families where there is little or no history of Higher Education. On the 10 June 2010, Woodhouse hosted an Aim Higher bus which takes the Aim Higher message directly to young people in schools. Recent University graduates spoke with students in Year 9 and inspired them with film, the latest computer technology and personal experience. As a direct result of the road show, many students in Year 9 have now raised their enthusiasm for going to University.

The Aim Higher Road Show is just one part of this Government funded initiative. Miss Barr, the Assistant Headteacher at Woodhouse in charge of engaging students with Aim Higher activities, has linked many students from all ages with different Aim Higher activities. Year 7 have recently been to South Staffordshire College, Rodbaston Campus, to be inspired in Animal Science followed by an afternoon at Torc Campus where careers in the NHS were taken part in. Students participated in filming their very own news and weather broadcast as part of promoting the Creative and Media Diploma.

Eleven Year 10 and Year 11 students have been successful in gaining a place at a University Summer School where students find out what University life is like first hand by attending residential courses in Science, Drama or Engineering for example. An extra two Year 10 students who have interest in studying journalism or law, have just recently been successful in gaining places in the 'Access to the professions' project where they will be mentored by professionals, take part in visits to University campuses and participate in work experience and work shadowing.



Since April, a university student from Keele University has been mentoring six Year 10 students once every two weeks at Woodhouse School. She helps them in exam preparation as well as providing independent advice and guidance in career choices.

Aim Higher has given young people the chance to raise their own aspirations to access Higher Education and Woodhouse has embraced this opportunity.

Aspiring the Most Able

Woodhouse Business & Enterprise College recognises the need to support and push the most able students. This will enable these students to fulfil their academic or talented needs. This has been partially met through the extended project on the World Cup where students in Y7-9 were given a more demanding extended project to complete. To complement this, twelve most able Y8 students will be attending a Gifted and Talented Day at Belgrave High School on the 7 July. All Tamworth Secondary Schools will be represented at this event and the students will work together in teams to produce and present a 'bid' on where the football World Cup should be held in 2018.

Extended Learning Project

This World Cup Project enabled all Key Stage 3 students to spend six weeks producing an in-depth cross-curricular project. It enabled students to organise their time to meet deadlines and to extend their learning in areas that particularly interested them. They had to work independently, as well as part of a team. At the end of the project, students were asked to give a presentation on how they had tackled the project. The best presentations then went through to the final at the Torc Centre.



TeenLife Survey

We are very pleased to report that our school has won a £1,000 prize from Tamworth Borough Council following our students' participation in the above project. The project was undertaken by all the Tamworth Schools to get feedback and give information to students about Healthy Lifestyles.



A cheque was presented by Sandra Gunn from the Public Health Office and Councillor Mary Oates.

Business & Enterprise

Over the last term Enterprise has featured heavily within Woodhouse Business and Enterprise College with many students taking part in a wide range of activities.

PHSEE Enterprise

This term saw the continuation of the enterprise modules within PHSEE; Years 7 and 8 have completed the Enterprise Skills and Money Matters modules. An Enterprise Team have delivered these to students which have allowed students to enhance their enterprise skills, learn and develop their knowledge about the nature of business and have a hands on approach within the classroom.

As part of the Year 7 PHSEE Enterprise module, we held a competition in association with Co-op Travel; students had to design a poster to advertise a holiday of their choice. The entries were then judged by the manager of Co-Op Travel in Tamworth. As a result of winning this competition students received a prize donated by Co-Op Travel and the winning poster has been displayed in the window of the travel agents for all to see. In addition to this the student's success

featured in the Tamworth Herald. Well done to the winning students; Brittany Hathaway, Hollie Dow and Emma Boehmer.

Well done to all those students who have completed the modules and thanks to all the staff for your hard work.

Year 7 Enterprise Day

In July all Year 7 students will be taking part in the 'Team Challenge Day' run by Staffordshire Partnership. Students will complete a number of challenges throughout the day that develop and demonstrate their enterprise skills whilst working together in a team. I am sure all students will have an enjoyable day and will have some inventive ideas that are truly inspiring!!

Amington and Florendine Fete

Our home grown business Purple Banana had the opportunity to take their products to market at both the Amington Fete and Florendine Primary School Fete. The team had enjoyable and profitable days and showed the local community that Woodhouse means business!



Primary Programme

All Year 6 students in our five feeder primary schools took part in a series of enterprise activities during the 5 & 6 June. The students took part in a number of enterprise challenges that developed their teamwork and enterprise skills. Students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the experience and our Year 6 students will be able to further develop their can-do attitude when they join us in September.

News from the Learning Resource Centre

Reading Champions

We have several more new Reading Champions in school who have all gained their bronze certificate from the National Literacy Trust.

Congratulations to Holly Jerman G26, James Tomson R23, Shane Easterbrook R22, Ronan Pritchett R26, Liam Pritchett R28 and Zoe Tompkins D25.

Student Librarians

A big thank you goes to Holly Jerman G26 who has now completed her two years as a Student Librarian. Holly has been a fantastic asset to the LRC at break and lunch each day. Thanks also go to James Tomson R23 who has just completed his first successful year. Both Holly and James have been a pleasure to work with.

Clubs

Two new clubs have been established in the LRC this year. Chess Club has been running successfully for some months on Tuesday's after school. Thomas Gessey-Jones D26 has been organising the advertising, monthly competitions and certificates.

A more recent development has been the launch of a Warhammer Club after school on Monday's. The idea for the club came from Charlie Orton B28 who is assisting younger players who want to get involved in this popular game of strategy.

Well done Thomas and Charlie



Quizzes

The bi-weekly Quiz for Years 9 and 10 is drawing to a close; the final Quiz will take place on Wednesday 21 July. At the moment the leader board is very close as all six teams have scored highly this term. As we go to print it is almost neck and neck between two Year 9 teams The Twihards and Octopus Men.

Rowling Wore Blue for Haiti

On 1st April Rowling students paid to wear blue tops and show their support for the Haiti Appeal. The students all looked fantastic and managed to raise a total of £130. Well done Rowling.

Rowling Win House Competition

After months of competitions, challenges, quizzes and getting reward cards filled in for good work and behavior Rowling students were finally crowned winners of the House Competition. As a reward for their hard work Rowling students are going on a trip to Star City in Birmingham to play Lazer Quest, Mini Golf and Bowling. Have fun and well done.

Othello the Opera

Just before Christmas Year 12 went to see an interesting operatic interpretation of Shakespeare's tragedy, 'Othello'. As students and staff entered the slightly derelict warehouse, they were instructed to take shoes off and were given a single black glove. The performance, based on Verdi's Opera, was exciting to say the least when the entire audience was brought into the performance as extras dancing and praising the character 'Othello' by raising their gloved hand. The students found the performance exciting and extremely useful for their English coursework.

Mini Marvels

Several Year 7's have recently found some of their work published in a book called 'Mini Marvels'. They had to use their skills of writing to create a very short 50 word story that was exciting and interesting. They were very pleased and proud of their accomplishment and want to get involved in many more competitions.

Language Ambassadors at Florendine

On Friday 18 June, 24 Year 9 Language Ambassadors went to Florendine Primary School to teach French to small groups of Year 5 and 6 students. Their aim was to show students that learning languages can be fun if you give it a go.

Their teaching was preceded by a course on the different aspects of teaching, planning, leadership, organisation of activities, writing lesson plans, ideas for games, rewards and motivation.

The topics they chose ranged from the alphabet, sports and hobbies, pets, zoo animals to the weather.

The ambassadors were responsible for the planning and delivery of their 20 minute lessons. Students started a little nervously but gained in confidence as they went through each round of presentations.

Florendine students ran, chanted, sang, played games and worked out clues; in short, a great time was had by all. Florendine staff were very impressed with the way the ambassadors planned and implemented their activities and the way they interacted with the students.

Woodhouse students gained an insight into the fun and enjoyment of teaching languages and Florendine students had fun learning French. Jack Lowes a Year 9 student felt that it was a good experience as they took what they learned in the classroom and transferred it into new skills. Chloe Dowling also felt the experience was useful as she worked well in a team and became more confident.

I would like to congratulate our Year 9 French students. After such a successful start we hope to continue with the Language Ambassadors Programme next year in Year 9.

French Trip to Paris – 29 May – 1 June 2010

5am on Saturday morning a group of 41 young people and five staff waited excitedly to board the coach to Paris. By 5.15am we were on our way. We travelled down to Dover taking the ferry onto Calais. After a smooth crossing the coach sped onto Paris where the group arrived slightly tired but very excited. The first meal was in a French restaurant where students were able to taste authentic French cuisine. With a quiz night to finish students went to bed happy but tired.

The next day after a typical French breakfast students started their tour of Paris by climbing up to Sacre Coeur where they could see fantastic views over Paris. After a little shopping on our way down we then did a mini tour of Paris on our way to pick up and eat our lunch. After lunch a cruise down the Seine on a Bateaux Mouche was the order of the day. The rest of the afternoon was spent at Aquaboulevard the largest water park in Europe. On the way back to the hotel the group did a more extensive tour of Paris.

The following day the group travelled to Eurodisney which the students really enjoyed.

On the final day they made their way back to Calais stopping off for some last minute shopping at the Cite d'Europe.

The group arrived back around 10.30pm, very tired but happy after an enjoyable trip. Shannon Randolph put the students' viewpoint so well in her evaluation: "All in all it was a fantastic trip. I can't choose the best bit, but I think everyone bonded and got to know people better. It was a fantastic opportunity and I want to do it again. It was a truly memorable trip and I'll look back on it when I am old and smile"

The behaviour of the students was a real credit to themselves, their parents and the school.

England Selection

On the weekend of 26 June Emily Allen competed in London for possible selection for the Junior Team England Triple Crown Tenpin Bowling Team.

Emily had to bowl 16 games against 19 other girl bowlers and for her to be successful she had to finish in the top six. Emily finished 4th overall which guaranteed her selection for the team.

She will now bowl in England colours for the second time in her short bowling career as she represented her country at the World Sports Festival in Vienna last July. This is the Triple Crown where she will bowl against Scotland, Wales and Ireland Junior Teams in London at the end of August.



Good Luck Emily!

Geography Department Trip

The Geography Department are hoping to organise a trip to Morocco, North Africa. The trip is open to all current Year 9's and all prospective 6th form students. Leaving 19 February 2011 (during half term), the adventure will include Trekking through the Atlas Mountains, visiting the Nomads to learn about their way of life and camping in the desert. Any students interested should ask a member of the Geography Department for further details



Collection of Vouchers

Could we take this opportunity to thank everyone for participating in collecting vouchers over the years which have helped us 'buy' equipment for Woodhouse. In recent years we have collected:

- Tesco's for Schools
- Sainsbury's Active Kids
- Morrison's Gardening for Kids
- Nestle Books for Schools

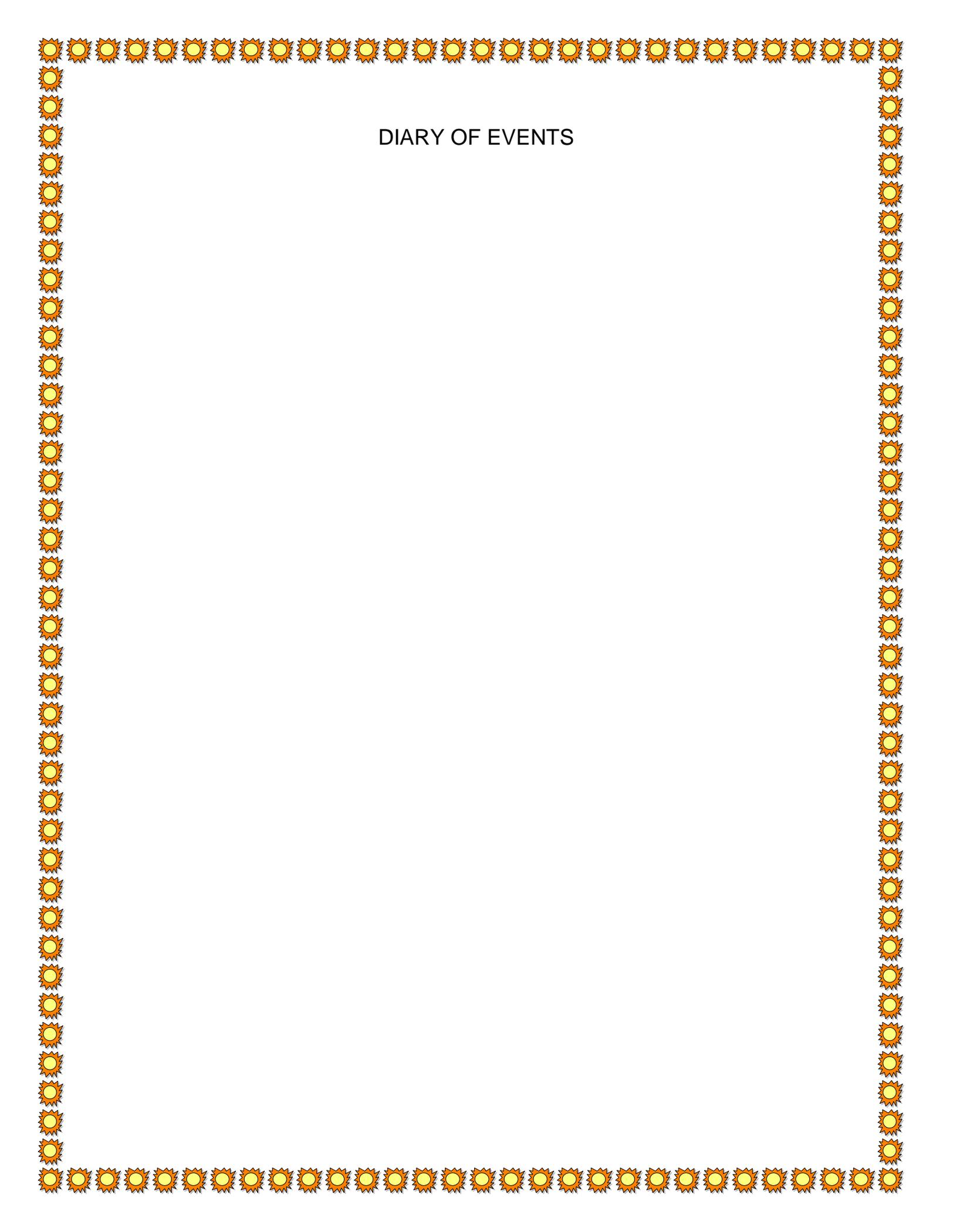
A big thank you for your help and we hope to continue to collect these in the future.

HOST

Would your family enjoy introducing someone from another country to your way of life?

There are international students from all over the world at universities in the UK. They speak English and most are in their 20's. They would love to spend a weekend sharing your family life in order to understand more about the UK. You could have fun introducing them to British food, customs, your local community and area; and you could learn about their country and culture.

HOST is a national charity, backed by the Foreign Office. See www.hostuk.org or call Ruth Pelly, the voluntary organiser in Staffordshire, on 01335 330555 for more details.



DIARY OF EVENTS