



**Carre's Grammar School**  
Founded 1604  
Headteacher N M Law BA (Hons)

9 May 2011

Dear Parent/Carer

**Student Achievements**

Last term was an exceptionally busy term with students working towards external exams, whilst at the same time availing themselves of the myriad of opportunities on offer at Carre's.

Matthew Cheng (Year 10) won the Veteran's class in the National Chinese Speaking competition. His prize was an all expenses paid trip to Beijing in the Easter holiday. It is an experience that I am sure he will never forget. Tom Watson (Year 13) came second in the Beginner's class and received a cash prize.

The Senior School Quiz Team won the regional round, but unfortunately was knocked out in the last 16 of the national rounds. Our congratulations go to Tom Barringer (Year 11), Greg Atkinson (Year 11), Jonathon Liston (Year 10) and Oliver Alderton (Year 10).

Fifteen Year 9 boys took part in the "Your Community, Your Vision" event run by the Education Business Partnership at the North Kesteven District Council chambers. The objectives of the event were to develop enterprise skills of teamwork, decision making, risk taking, delivering a presentation, leadership, financial capability and problem solving, whilst considering the local community and how a coherent vision for the future might look. Competing against several other schools in the district, a Carre's team came first. Congratulations to all the students involved.

The Lincolnshire Journalist Academy has done much stirring work recently. A member of the Young Journalist Academy, from Carre's Grammar, was short-listed for the coveted 'Young Human Rights Reporter of the Year' award. Children across the UK, aged between 7 and 14 years old, were asked to write 200-250 words on a human rights story. It could have been from personal experience (eg bullying or what it's like to be a refugee) or their interpretation of a human rights news story. Conor Thompson has been invited to attend a journalism workshop at the Guardian Newspaper and a special ceremony at the Amnesty Headquarters on 19 May as a result of this. Conor's story was based on the experience of Holocaust survivor, Hanneka Dye, who he interviewed when reporting on Holocaust Memorial Day.

Nic Jones (Year 10) and Edward Down (Year 9) organised a fantastic music concert at the end of the Spring Term. It was very well attended with a high standard of music in a very convivial atmosphere, and raised over £340 for the Shining Star Trust.

There have been several students who have achieved success in the Royal Society of Music awards:

Tom Barringer - Grade 3 Trombone and Grade 7 Piano  
Matthew Cheng - Grade 6 Piano  
Matthew Killen and Jonathan Gilmore - Grade 3 Piano  
Joshua Burton - Grade 1 Piano  
Thomas Bentley, Alex Reece, Rhys Leeper and Connor O'Leary - Grade 2 Saxophone  
Sam Gilmore - Grade 5 Piano  
Edward Down - Grade 4 Saxophone

The sporting successes are detailed elsewhere, in the Gazzetta Del Carre's.



## **Arts Award**

Thanks to the work of Ms Theresa Angus, supported by Ms Karen Cain and Ms Karen Sharples, the school is being invited to become a good practice centre for the Arts Award.

## **Instrumental Lessons**

May I respectfully remind those who have instrumental lessons that a month's notice is required to cancel music lessons. Whilst I appreciate that some parents cancel at this time of the year because of pressure of exams, the peripatetic teachers have been booked and paid for.

## **Academy Conversion**

In February the governors passed a resolution to apply to convert to become an academy. This was not the final decision for the school to become an Academy, but it allowed us to access a grant provided by Government so that governors can assess the impact on the school of becoming an Academy. It also started a process of consultation with all of our stakeholders, which also informs the decision-making process. I would like to thank those who took the time to write to either the governors or me during this period and assure you that any comments have been taken into consideration. The grant awarded to the school by the DfE to assess the viability of Carre's becoming an Academy has enabled the governors to appoint Browne Jacobson as its lawyers. They are a national firm and have a vast experience of working with schools who have converted. They will look into all of the associated issues on our behalf. The final decision as to the future direction of the school in respect of our status will be taken by the governors at their full Board Meeting on 26 May, and the Chair of Governors and I shall communicate the outcome to you via the school's website.

## **Trips and Visits**

There have been several trips and visits that have been a great success and provided really memorable experiences for the students:

- We are very grateful to Mr Paul Mawditt and Mr Ashley Thomas for organising the trip for ten Year 8 and 9 students to China, and also for the support given by Mr Mark Clare. There will be a return visit in July, when we shall be hosting staff and students from our partner school, The Zhuhai Experimental Middle School.
- Mr Ian Scholefield led the ski trip with students from all year groups to Les Menuires in the French Alps. Planning is already underway for next year's trip to Alpe d'Huez.
- Mr Mark Clare, Mr Russell Smith and Ms Boehler took a mixed-age group of students to Boppard in Germany.

## **School Facilities**

We are very pleased that the Fitness and Nutrition Suite was completed on time and is now operational. Sixth form students have been learning to cook over the last few weeks in preparation for their time at University, and as of September all Year 7 students will be cooking, as will other groups of students. The Fitness Suite has doubled in size and has state-of-the-art equipment which students, staff and members of the community regularly use. If you would like to become a member, please contact Nigel Stephenson at the school.

## **School Allotment**

The allotment was officially launched at the start of March and a team of 10-12 boys from Years 7-10 have been working hard to bring an allotment, behind Millfield Terrace, back into action. The allotment had not been in use for several years and it has, therefore, required the boys to invest a lot of time and energy to get it into a state where it can be used effectively. Since the project began, the students have managed to clear half of the site, have it rotivated and plant a range of seed potatoes, onions and carrots. The boys have also been keen to accept help and guidance from the established 'old timers' who have been happy to pass on some of their horticultural 'wisdom'.

The boys have been highly committed and are now starting to see the fruits (and vegetables) of their labour, as the potatoes start to come through. It has also been great to see support and interest shown by many members of staff, who have pulled on their wellies, got stuck in and enjoyed the outdoors.

### **Curriculum Enrichment Day**

The next Curriculum Enrichment Day is on 28 June. All students will be off their normal timetabled lessons for this day and will be involved in projects in their year groups. Further details will follow.

### **Uniform and Appearance**

Whilst many students are extremely smart and wear their uniform well, a number do not. It is often the 'small things' which make the biggest impression: make up, jewellery, hair style/colour, etc. It is not always about wearing a tie and tucking in a shirt. These aspects of uniform are influenced very much by the fashion of the day, but increasingly, staff are having to challenge students about these aspects of appearance as well. Unfortunately, some parents do not support us when we challenge students about their appearance. I am very grateful to the vast majority of you who work with us to promote the highest possible standards. In the summer term, I have asked all staff to ensure that their students in registration times (beginning of the day and at lunch time) are correctly presented. For students who persistently challenge the uniform standards, we will use the full range of sanctions available to us which may also involve parents coming into school to discuss any issues I, or other staff, may have.

### **Parents' Cars on the School Site**

May I remind parents that we do not allow the dropping off of students on the school site after 8 am for safety reasons. Similarly, in the afternoons, parents should not bring cars onto the site before 4 30 pm.

### **Study Leave – Year 11 students**

For Year 11 students, the last day of teaching will be on Friday 13 May. This means that from 16 May onwards Year 11 students will only have to be in school during their actual exams. It is the responsibility of each individual student to ensure that they are in school for their exams at the correct time, as there can be no appeal merely for mixing up the days or times of the exams.

### **Author's Visit**

On Friday 18 February, Year 7 students at Carre's Grammar School were treated to an engaging literacy event performed by local author William Hussey.

William visited the school to talk about and perform a snippet of his action packed second book in the *Witchfinder* trilogy, *Gallows at Twilight*. The morning was both a fun and historical experience as the boys learnt about the infamous seventeenth century witch hunter Matthew Hopkins. Students were eager to know more about the author's life, the tortures suspected witches were subject to and the future of *Witchfinder's* main character.

After a lively question and answer session and a book signing, William took a live call from Radio Lincolnshire to talk about the rise in popularity of teen fiction. His visit was a catalyst, inspiring the students to read for pleasure.

### **Office Opening Hours**

For your information, the school office is open between 8 15 am and 4 45 pm Monday to Friday, and between 9 am and 1 pm on weekdays during the school holidays.

## Students' Property

We have become increasingly concerned about the vast amount of students' property which is simply being left around the site. It has always been the case that sports bags must be taken home rather than left at school overnight. This probably sounds obvious to parents, but the message has not got through to all the boys. Believe it or not, there were still numerous sports bags left on site over the holidays despite several reminders. Could I therefore ask you to check that you know the whereabouts of your son's sports kit? If it's not at home each evening, something is going wrong. We also have a huge number of unnamed items regularly left in school. Again, I would be grateful if parents could ensure that all things that are brought to school are clearly named. These are often expensive items and the casual way in which some boys approach looking after their belongings is quite breathtaking. We will be making a concerted effort to get the message across this term. Any items left on the site on Friday afternoons will be cleared and placed in the lost property store. At the end of each Half Term any unclaimed items will be donated to a worthy charity. It is an important part of their education for boys to learn how to look after their possessions, so I hope to secure your active support in getting the message across.

## Forthcoming Events

13 May	Last day for Year 11s and Year 12s
16 May	Start of external exams
26 May	Sports Day
27 May	End of Term 5
27 May	Last day for Year 13s
6 June	Start of Term 6
10-13 June	Year 9 Battlefields trip
13 June	Year 12s return to lessons
17 June	Year 8 Geography trip to Skegness
21 June	Year 5 Taster Day
21 June	Year 8 Parents' Evening
27 June–8 July	Year 10 Work Experience
27 June	New Intake Parents' Evening
28 June	Last day of external exams
28 June	Curriculum Day
29 June	UCAS Information Evening for Year 12s
1 July	Year 6 Intake Day
6-7 July	Sport BTEC trip to Derbyshire
12-13 July	School Play
15-16 July	Boulogne trip
18 July	Rewards Trip to Alton Towers
22 July	Junior Prizegiving
22 July	Last day of Term 6

Let's hope that this term is as successful as the last!

Yours faithfully



**N M Law**  
Headteacher