

### **Carre's Grammar School**

# NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2015 www.carres.lincs.sch.uk

#### **Useful Dates:**

11 November Year 13 Parents' Evening

17 November Bond and Beyond Concert 7pm

19 November Psychology Conference

20 November GCSE PE Assessment at PGL

23 November Year 11 Mock Exams

24 November Year 10 Parents' Evening

9 December Year 9 Options Evening

11 December Christmas Entertainment - Ashdene and Oakdene Care Homes

16 December Senior Prize Giving 7pm

17 December Carol Service, St Denys' Church 1.30pm

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#### Foreword by Mr Law, Headteacher

We have enjoyed a tremendous and varied programme of activities over the last few weeks at school and it is a struggle to keep up with everything that's been happening, none of which would be possible if it were not for the extraordinary energy, enthusiasm and commitment of my colleagues, to whom I happily pay tribute. I am also hugely grateful for the exuberance, talent and stamina of our students, as well as our parents who support the school in a myriad of different ways. Much of this is covered within this newsletter, but I would like to highlight the Sponsored Walk; it was great to see students and staff from both Carre's and Kesteven and Sleaford High School enjoying the day together and raising money for worthy causes. The two schools are working together more closely to enhance the education of the students at both schools now that they are the Robert Carre Trust. For example, there is to be a joint staff training day in January, focusing upon the best practice in teaching and learning, a joint Drama production in March, and a great deal of planning being done as they work with St George's to create the best curriculum offer for the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form.

#### **Staff Changes**

Mrs Marr, in the Maths department, has left the school and we are delighted that Mr Dan Roberts will be joining us in January as Second in Maths. He is currently teaching at The King's School, Grantham. Mr John West, who has worked for us in recent years, has gallantly stepped into the breach in the interim period, as have other members of the Maths department to ensure that the students' education is not unduly disrupted.

#### Rugby Tour October 2015



# Sponsored Walk 2015

On 22 October, we all took part in the annual sponsored walk. For the first time we joined with Kesteven and Sleaford High School, meaning this year 1600 pupils did the 12 mile long walk. The weather was better than ever, despite the fact that the route was quite muddy!

My experiences of the sponsored walk:

This was my second time doing the sponsored walk. Last year I remember doing it in three hours. This year I did it in two! I can't say I'm not happy with that time and trust me, the next day my legs killed! I think the sponsored walk is always a fun experience, a good way to catch up and make new friends and raise money for charity.

This year the chosen charities were as follows: Year 7: Help for Heroes Year 8: Beaumond House Community Hospice Year 9: Teenage Cancer Trust Year 10/11: Hope House School Year 12/13: Leicestershire Kidney Patients Association

By Matthew Patchett 8W

Current pledges total £14,000. Please remember to bring in any sponsored walk money by 13 November. Thank you.



# Chris Davies, Carre's Grammar School student, represents Great Britain 16-19 age group at the Grand Final of the World Triathlon Championships in Chicago.

Having qualified earlier in the year in Cambridgeshire, Chris travelled to Chicago with his family. On arriving at the hotel, one of the first tasks was to re-build his bike which had been packed in a bike box for the flight. This triathlon was unusual as there was no opportunity to practise the swim or bike routes as the swim was taking part in a busy part of Lake Michigan full of yachts, and the cycle was on the busy Chicago streets which could only be shut on race days.

Having checked all of his equipment, performed a couple of training runs and swims, it was time to book in the night before the race. The pre-race routines are as important as the race itself. Mistakes here can really be magnified on the following day.

Chris said "There weren't too many nerves before the race, although a lot of the other athletes were a lot older and much bigger than me. You get to a point where you just want to get on with it. I was in the first race of the day. I could warm up on land but then you have to jump in the lake and start almost straight away. It's always very tense waiting for the starting horn to blast".



The swim is always the worst part of the race for Chris; it's very hard with the jostling and elbows in your face. At the end of the swim, Chris was in the second half of the field; however, as always he caught up lots of people running to transition to get to the bike and was quick out of his wet suit. Chris was strong in the bike phase, although the Mexicans in front of him formed a peloton which is against the rules as it was a non-drafting race. They did get time penalties and disqualifications, however. The run section is his main strength and this proved the case once more. Despite it being a really hot day, approximately 30 degrees centigrade, Chris stayed strong as others began to struggle, finishing an incredible 21st from 90 starters. He came in in front of the boy who won the European Champs in Kitzbuhel last year which was a good achievement and was the 5th ranked GB athlete.

Chris said "I really enjoyed the race, especially having the opportunity to race against others from as far away as Australia, New Zealand, Mexico and across America. There were some really good athletes there".

Whilst in Chicago, he went along to support the other age group athletes competing in the standard distance triathlon, including the BBC news reporter Louise Minchin. There were also the elite races and it was great to see Non Stanford and Lucy Holland earn their Olympic places by finishing 2nd and 3rd. Jonny Brownlee had a good race considering he is recovering from a leg fracture! Seeing them close up really gave Chris an insight in what's needed to progress to the next level.



Chris feels that it was well worth travelling to Chicago for the experience. He is the epitome of the student athlete. Having secured 6 A\*'s and 5 A's at GCSE last year, he is determined to be successful on all fronts. The next international race which he has qualified for is the European Champs in Lisbon next May which he hopes to be able to fit round exams.

The school is hugely proud of his achievements and looks forward to tracking his future successes.



# **Music News**

All of the Year 7 students have started their brass tuition on either trumpet or trombone. Their teachers have been very impressed with their progress – some classes have managed to learn to play four notes in just one lesson. There is a chance that 7L may be asked to play in the forthcoming Bond Concert as they have done so well.

On Thursday 8 October all of Year 8 travelled to Lincoln Odeon to watch a screening of the BBC's new 'Ten Pieces Film'. Students particularly



enjoyed Gabriel Prokofiev's 'Concerto for Turntables and Orchestra' and Bernstein's 'Mambo' from 'West Side Story'. This will lead to some activities on the Curriculum Day in December.



A growing number of staff and students are meeting each week to rehearse Carl Orff's 'Carmina Burana'. Getting to grips with the Latin text is a bit of a challenge but the singing is fun. We will be

performing this (together with students from several other schools from Lincolnshire) in Lincoln Cathedral on 30 January 2016 (tickets will be available from the Cathedral box office).

We also plan to go London in July to perform this work in the Royal Albert Hall as part of a choir of around 1000! If any more students or parents would

like to join us please contact Mrs Quinton.

Lots of students including the school's band and choir are busy rehearsing for our forthcoming 'Bond Night' on Tuesday 17 November. Come and join us for an evening of Music inspired by the James Bond films. There will be a quiz and a competition for the best Bond outfit – come along for your chance to win a ticket to see the new film.

Mrs Quinton, Head of Music

Tickets available from the School Office £3 Adults £1 Children



### Lincolnshire Geographical Association World Wise Quiz

#### Geographical Association

On 15 October six Year 11 Geography students - Sebastian James, Khalid Abdelrazek, Harry Lord, Dominic Batty, Oliver Hill and Hithin Noble - went to St Peter and St Paul School in Lincoln to take part in the annual Lincolnshire Geographical Association World Wise Quiz. They were split into two teams and were pitted against twelve other teams from schools in Lincolnshire. They answered questions on a range of geographical subjects such as geography in the news, fieldwork and general geographical knowledge. Both teams did well throughout the rounds and ended the evening coming 3rd and 4th, making Carre's the 2nd placed school on the night. Well done to all those involved! Report by Miss Chaddock, Head of Geography



## Local Democracy Day – Wednesday 14 October at North Kesteven District Council Chamber



A group of Year 8s and 9s went to the NKDC Local Democracy Day at the Council Offices in Sleaford. Groups from St George's Sleaford and Ruskington and KSHS also participated. The aim of the day was to promote the importance of democracy, team work, how democracy works and to demonstrate the importance of using your vote.

The first activity was an inter-school competition, made of two parts, the first being a challenge to name as many politicians as we could and the second being a quiz about democracy with questions like "How many seats are there in the House of Commons?" or "Who was thought to have first used democracy: the Ancient Greeks, the Ancient Egyptians or the Ancient Romans?" Carre's was split into two groups and group two won.

Each of the Parties would take part in a mock election. They had to make three pledges; promises of what they would do if they won power in the election. They also had to name their Party and promote it by choosing and making a rosette and putting up posters explaining why people should vote for their Party. Each party was made up of six people and each had a specific role. The roles included a Candidate (one in each party), Candidate Agent (three in each party) and Candidate Manager (two in each Party). The role of the Candidate was to be the face of the Party, to present its ideas and to help promote the Party. The role of the Candidate Manager was to help the Candidate in promoting the Party. The role of the Candidate; however, the Candidate Managers generally focus on either the promotion of the Party and the Agents or the presentation of the Party's ideas. One of Candidate Agents could also go with the Candidate to the hustings, to help the Candidate present their ideas and to help answer questions that people put forward to the Candidate. This was my role.

There were also two other groups involved, the press group and the local residents group. Their role was to put forward questions to the Candidates about their Party and its plans. The press had to think of questions that people would want to know before voting; questions that would show any problems with the Party's plans. The role of the residents was to think up questions that would answer their concerns so that they were fully aware of how voting for that party would affect them. This took place during the hustings. This was a period during which the Candidates presented their ideas and people asked them questions about those ideas.

After the hustings each pupil taking part voted on the Candidate who they thought should win the election. The vote was completed like a real election. Each student had a voting card that they had to show to demonstrate their right to vote and they voted in a booth, on a card, as happens in real life.

The results were then given and we moved onto the next activity which was reviewing a planning application in the same way that the council does for real. This gave us all and insight into how the Council works. We then voted on the application before the day was over.

Overall, the day was a great experience for all of us, as it gave us an insight into democracy and how it works from several points of view. We now know what it is like to vote, to work in a Party and to work on a local scale in reviewing Council Planning Applications.

Written by James Parker 9C



# **RIDE 24 CHALLENGE**

Michael Browning, Maxim Burrows, Alisdair Campbell, Tim Gutteridge and Conor

O'Leary cycled from Newcastle to London in 24 hours, as part of the 'Ride 24' Challenge between 22 – 23 August 2015.

The boys were in training for months, and even spent a week in the Peak District to do some extra hill training.

Each of the boys had to raise at least £500 for their chosen charities. The event was split into seven stages with minimal root store event 45 miles or exprised the night.



rest stops every 45 miles or so, right through the night – with the midnight stop being at Carre's itself.

The school is very proud of the commitment and achievement shown by these students.

Well done lads!

### Will Hopkins Crowned National Golf Champion

On Monday 20 July, Carre's Grammar School student William

Hopkins became the National Schools' U16 Golf Champion, winning the 36-hole event at Kirby Muxloe with rounds of 68 and 73 for a total of 141. Impressively, William's winning margin over a very strong field was an enormous 5 shots.



William has consequently been selected to represent England Schools against Wales at Sherwood Forest Golf Club on 24 August, in addition to his already being selected to play against Scotland in Kilmarnock this September.

William, 15 years old and a member of Sleaford Golf Club, is one of three boys from Carre's who competed earlier in the year at the National Schools' Golf Championships at Peterborough Milton Golf Club on 22 June. The boys represented the North of England Schools, having qualified through the Regional Championships. Ryan Trow, a 6 handicap, Jake Craddock a 3 handicap and Hopkins performed admirably in tough weather conditions, particularly in their first rounds. With everything to play for in the afternoon, Hopkins fired a very impressive round of 74 to finish in 8th position, earning his selection for the National Team.

William will be the second student in two years from Carre's to gain this accolade, following Oliver Harrod's appearance in the international match in 2014. With a National Champion, five of their students in the County Team, three regional representatives and now two schoolboy internationals over the last two years, Carre's is developing a reputation as the place to be for young, aspiring golfers in Lincolnshire.

Pictured is Will receiving his trophy from David Watchorn, the Captain of Kirby Muxloe.

### LRC News

The first half term has been extremely busy in the LRC with our refurbishment and the purchasing of lots of new stock for the students to enjoy! I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know all of the Carre's students and finding out about the types of books that they like to read.



The LRC has been really lucky to gain a team of fantastic student Librarians who support the running of the LRC at lunchtime. They are all doing a brilliant job – especially as our LRC has become increasingly popular!

We have lots of displays in the LRC at the moment, ranging from James Bond and

Star Wars to 'The Apprentice'. All of the displays encourage the students to read the fabulous books that we have on the shelves in our LRC. We have lots of non-fiction books to support the students' learning as well as many fantastic fiction books to encourage reading for pleasure. Please let me know if there are any books that you think that the LRC should have and I will always consider buying them!

We are open every day at break and lunchtime, and it is fantastic to see the amount of students who come to do their homework or to sit down on one of the comfy beanbags to relax and read a book or magazine. We have homework club every day after school - Monday - Thursday until 4.30pm and Fridays until 4pm. All students are welcome to join us to complete their homework in a quiet environment with lots of excellent resources.

We are also about to re-launch our film club on a Friday lunchtime. The first session will be on Friday 13 November and we are going to start off by showing all of the Harry Potter films. The club will be on a first come, first served basis and will be limited to 60 students. Anyone who is interested should come to the LRC for a ticket. It promises to be a magical experience!!!

Mrs Morrissey, LRC Manager

EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC AT FILM CLUB. RELIVE THE HARRY POTTER MOVIES FROM THE VERY BEGINNING! IN THE LRC FRIDAY LUNCH TIMES!



# Whole School Literacy Focus

Literacy underpins the whole school curriculum and in effect we are all teachers of literacy. As such Carre's Grammar School is committed to improving standards of literacy in all students through a consistent approach across all areas of the curriculum. Literacy refers to the ability to communicate effectively in a variety of ways to a range of audiences. It unites the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. It is vital that students are allowed to become competent language users, in order to lead successful and productive adult lives. Competence and confidence with literacy skills promotes self-esteem and sense of purpose. Examinations demand high levels of literacy and it is those students who are literate who are more likely to achieve higher standards of attainment in public examinations. The more independent styles of learning can only be accessed where literacy levels are high. These styles of learning promote confidence and also assist in examinations where independent sustained writing is required. We should all take responsibility for our children's language

### Apostrophe of possession

- Apostrophe: Nouns are often linked together when someone or something belongs to another person or thing. This idea of 'belonging to' is shown by the use of the apostrophe.
- EXAMPLES John's dog was tired.
- Jane's shoes
- The cat's whiskers (one cat)
- The horses' stables (more than one horse)

development.

One of the strategies we have implemented this year in order to address the above, is to have a whole school literacy focus each term. This term's focus is the use of apostrophes and it would be good if you could discuss this with your son/daughter and encourage best use of this in his/her written work.

Mrs Albuixech Head of Modern Foreign Languages

#### Apostrophe of omission

<sup>•</sup> Apostrophe: Used to show contraction (making smaller) or omission (leaving out).

EXAMPLES - do not becomes don't will not becomes won't

#### Apostrophe of possession

#### What if the word already ends in 's'?

 There are conflicting policies and theories about how to show possession when writing such nouns. The English Department teaches the following way: Simply put an apostrophe after someone's name ending in -s

#### i.e. Mr Jones' cat. Lewis' bag

#### The boss' coat

This is the more traditional way of using the apostrophe and looks 'cleaner'.



#### **Football**

Opposition	Result
Branston Academy	W 1 - 0
Spalding Grammar School	L 6-5
Sir William Robertson Academy	W 4 -1
Bourne Grammar	W 3 - 0
The King's School	W 3 - 0
Arthur Mellows Village College	W 6 - 1
Lincoln College	W 3 -1

#### <u>U13</u>

Competition	Opposition	Result
National Cup	John Fennelly College	W 7-2
National Cup	Branston Academy	W 2-0
National Cup	Bourne Grammar	W 6-1

#### <u>U14</u>

Competition	Opposition	Result
National Cup	The King's School	L 3-2
County Cup	St Georges Academy	W 6-0

#### <u>U16</u>

Competition	Opposition	Result
National Cup	William Farr School	W 3-1

#### <u>2nd XI</u>

Competition	Opposition	Result
League	St Georges Academy	L 3-2
League	Horncastle Banovallum School	W 6-2
League	Boston High	L 3-1
League	Priory Ruskin Academy	W 5-2
League	Lincoln College	W 2-0

#### House Football

Year	Result	
7	1st B 2nd L	
8	1st W 2nd B	
9 1st B 2nd L		
10	1st W 2nd C	
11	1st W 2nd B	

#### County Cross-country

Will Tucker 2nd - Junior Boys Chris Davies 1st - Intermediate Boys Niall Parsons 10th - qualified for next stage

Winning House	Points
Welby	100
Bristol	75
Carre	50
Lafford	25

### <u>Rugby</u>

#### <u>U12</u>

Competition2	Opposition	Result
Friendly	Spalding Grammar	W

#### <u>U13</u>

Competition2	Opposition	Result
Friendly	The King's School	W 42-24
Friendly	St Georges Academy	W 29-19

#### U14

Competition2	Opposition	Result
Friendly	The King's School	L 67-12

#### <u>U15</u>

Competition2	Opposition	Result
National cup	Uppingham School	L 28-3

#### <u>U16</u>

Competition2	Opposition	Result
	Spalding Grammar	L 31-10

#### <u>1st XV</u>

Competition2	Opposition	Result
Friendly	Spalding Grammar	W 21-3
Friendly	Wisbech Grammar	L 27-7
Friendly	Priory LSST	L 52-5
Friendly	St Georges Academy	W 50-0
National Cup	Bourne Grammar	W
International Friendly	Mathew Flinders	W 22-17
Friendly	King's 2ndXV	W 54-7
National Cup	Spalding Grammar	W 29-5

### <u>Netball</u>

Competition2	Opposition	Result
League	The Deepings	W 31-10
International friendly	Mathew Flinders	W 50-17 W 34-24
League	Bourne Grammar	W 19-16
League	Glede Academy	W 53-0

# **Dublin Rugby Tour October 2015**

59 students and 6 staff set off on the Rugby Tour at 7.30am, looking forwarded to visiting

one of the European powerhouses of Rugby – Leinster. Having arrived at the Ferry on time we were told by the captain of the ferry that it would be a calm crossing. Some of our boys would disagree and will definitely be taking travel sickness tablets the next time they travel by ferry!

We arrived in Dublin and went straight to the 'RDS' for Leinster versus Glasgow Warriors in the Pro 12. Despite Ireland and Scotland being knocked-out of the World Cup the previous weekend, the teams were by no means full strength. The game, and in particular the second half, was still entertaining however and Leinster snuck a close fought game.

The following morning our first fixture got cancelled which was a big pity; however, we were able to train at the Ireland equivalent of St George's Park which provided us with superb facilities for the boys to 'find their feet' on Irish soil. After lunch we toured the impressive Aviva Stadium where Ireland plays rugby and football. We needed to rest in the evening ready for the fixtures the following day.

A 20 minute bus journey saw us arrive at Black Rock College RFC. Our opposition were in many cases older and bigger than us but unperturbed we got stuck in and had 3 really good games of rugby, unfortunately losing all 3 games. After the matches and post-match reception we headed off for a cultural tour of the impressive Guinness museum, followed by exploring Dublin city centre.

On Monday we had a full day of training with Leinster Rugby at their famous Donnybrook Stadium which has a new state of the art 4G pitch. The boys had a fantastic time and learned many new skills and strategies. The evening was spent at the bowling alley. Definitely the highlight of the day however, saw Year 8 student Bryn almost beat Mr Law at pool!



The final day was shopping for gifts, swimming at the National Aquatic Centre and an overnight ferry and coach journey, arriving back at Carre's at 5.30am the following day. We were tired to say the least, however, a good time was had by all!

The next tour is U16 cricket to Saint Lucia in February. The boys have been training hard in winter nets since September and are raring to go!

Mr J Offer Head of Sport



# 101 vi browo vho

Arts Award is celebrating 10 years of qualifications this year. It was first launched in October and as such we signed up this year's cohort last month.

We are now set to kick off a 10 hour arts challenge, 10 week arts challenge and a 10 month arts challenge, with a related activity day. However, due to the number of student who want to take part we need to spread the students over three different dates.

The three dates are: Monday 9 November (all day) Tuesday 10 November (morning only) Tuesday 17 November (morning only)



As expected, all students will be reminded that they will need to catch up on anything that they miss on the day/morning they are off timetable to be in art.

Miss Angus - Head of Art

# Eco Committee - September

#### By Jack Dawson (10B)

So what has the School's Eco Committee been doing since September?

Well, we have spent a lot of our time raising awareness of the Eco Committee. Notably **Seth Parrott** and **Robert Thompson** were very courageous in doing a whole school assembly. **Seth** also went on to do a KS3 assembly with **Travis Cullum** to raise awareness of our group. The whole school assembly was about Ozone Day; this was a project run by us to raise awareness for the damage being done to our ozone layer, how it affects us and the ecology of our planet. We organised a non-school uniform day for this and raised £848!

As a member of the Eco Committee, I assure you that we will invest these funds wisely. These funds are also going to be invested locally, to try and make a positive effect on the local environment. For example, we, in conjunction with the School Council, have agreed to invest £100 in litter-picking equipment for the school.

We also ran a 'Dress like a Birdwatcher' competition; **Tristan Cook** of Year 10 won this. After the event, **Mrs Cook, IT Network Manager and Eco Team Leader,** received many positive comments from staff about the achievements of the Eco Committee.

Thank you for reading the latest Eco Committee update

# LIVE AND LEARN 2015

The Live and Learn programme is an educational exchange between two English schools; Carre's Grammar School and Kesteven and

Grantham Girls' School, and a Spanish school; GEM which is located in Mataró, Barcelona. It is a project celebrating 'excellence in Spanish' that started in the summer of 2014, and is a new experience for students wanting to enhance their knowledge of the Spanish language.

The project is offered to a small group (maximum 5) of confident language students, aged 16-18. During their stay, students spend 2 weeks living with a Spanish family and immersed in their day to day life in order to enrich their language skills. Students attend the Spanish school and choose 3 or 4 subjects amongst ones offered by the host school as well as attending English and Spanish lessons. The project aims not only to improve students' competence in oral skills but to introduce them to the social, academic and cultural reality of the host country. It furthermore gives them the opportunity to create links and relationships between students from different countries and cultures.

In order to be considered for this "Excellence in Spanish" project, there are certain criteria that need to be fulfilled and an application process. Firstly, the student has to have achieved constantly high marks in Spanish assessments and examinations and demonstrate a passion in the subject and a determination to succeed. After this criteria is fulfilled, applicants must write a letter of application in Spanish which will be sent to 'Escola GEM' explaining why they want to take part in the project. Students are then shortlisted and they participate in a Skype interview in Spanish with the coordinator from the Spanish school, where competency in the language is tested. All that is left to do after the application process is to wait (and hope!) that you have been accepted to participate in the project.

Having recently taken part in the exchange, we arrived home full of stories to tell. We admit to the change in culture being "hard to adapt to at first" (Connor) as the education system is so different however "completely worth it" (Anna) as it gave us a deeper insight into the Spanish culture. We both agreed that our language skills have improved immensely over the course of the 2 weeks as we really had to "think on the spot and use initiative" (Connor). "I think it was a very fulfilling experience" (Anna) as we not only improved our language skills but made "fantastic friends" that we'll "no doubt stay in contact with".

We had the opportunity to visit certain parts of Catalonia with our host families, which is particularly useful for us in our cultural studies of the region. My highlight was visiting the mountain 'Montserrat'. "Montserrat is absolutely stunning, and it was interesting to find out about some of its traditional foods, for example 'mel I mato', (Anna) whilst Connor thoroughly enjoyed his visit to Barcelona "It's such an artistic and diverse city with a lot to offer." It is clear that we both have benefited from this exchange as we've both returned more confident and knowledgeable in our language and cultural studies.

We would strongly recommend this experience to any budding linguist with a passion in Spanish as it has given us a deeper insight into the language that goes far beyond the classroom.

Written by: Anna Albuixech and Connor Mackay

# <u>Spanish</u> Exchange

2015

It was an early start for students embarking on the Spanish Exchange, and it's fair to say that none of us had fully awoken until roughly 7am on a cold English morning on the A1 down to Stansted. Only at this point had we arisen from our sleepy slumber and truly appreciated the week ahead of us, which was to be full of excitement. Not one student, at this point in time, was worried about what we were going to be experiencing, as the thrill of

meeting our exchanges and our new homes for the week was allaying any fears.

It was only until we finally laid eyes upon a signpost for Mataró, our destination, which the prospect of having to speak Spanish and live in a completely alien environment truly sunk in. Silence fell upon the group as we cautiously stepped out of the coach, eagerly scanning the crowd of Catalan pupils for our partners. After an awkward first introduction for us all, a weekend with our Spanish peers awaited as we all set off in different directions with different people.

After arriving at our respective homes we were able to meet the families of our exchanges. Learning all the new names was to some degree stressful, and you were constantly trying to ensure you were leaving a positive impression on your new family and after this initial welcoming into their homes, the entire submersion into Catalan and Spanish culture paid off as we quickly started to feel comfortable with our exchanges. The once daunting relationships turned into a more casual and friendly relationship, where we were less concerned about the implications if a grammatical error was made and instead eager to try new words and phrases. We became more confident and outgoing, quickly starting to push ourselves with the conversations we were having; immediately understanding the extent of how much we would improve over the course of a week.

As we came to the end of our time in Mataró, our opinions and abilities had all changed vastly. No longer were we scared or anxious to be speaking and meeting new people, but more sad and reluctant to leave and let go of this new style of life. Planning for the future, it is clear to us all that even without school, we will definitely be going back - redeveloping the confidence needed to thrive and flourish and in an unfamiliar environment.

If you are lucky enough to be offered the opportunity to take part in the Exchange, grab it with both hands and make the most of every moment. It is a fantastic opportunity; you practise so much Spanish, go on some really great trips and you really enjoy yourself. Don't worry about being in a family, that initial concern lasts about 30 seconds and after that it's like you are in your own home! It was brilliant and we'd like to say a big thanks to the teachers who went with us, (Mr Newell, Mrs Hawkins from KG and Miss Muñoz from KG) and to Mrs Albuixech and Mrs Nelson for organising the whole thing.

Written by: Jamie Watson and Tom Rock



## Sir Isaac Newton Lecture

A group of Year 9s and 12s visited RAF College Cranwell to hear a lecture from Professor Mark Miodownik who is a renowned Engineer and Materials Scientist at University College London.

During the lecture the students learnt about a range of materials, their history and potential development moving forward. During the presentation Professor Mark Miodownik demonstrated concrete that can heal itself, medical implants which can become living bone and materials, that with development could produce the first invisibility shields.

Mr Thomas - Design and Technology

#### **Emergency School Closure**

As we are into the winter season we would to remind parents of the arrangements for emergency school closure.

As a matter of policy the school will make every effort to remain open. However, severe weather can sometimes lead to transport problems which make it impossible for the school to function normally. In the unlikely event that the school will be closed, a notice will be posted on the front page of our website at <u>www.carres.lincs.sch.uk</u> by 7.30 am. Information will also be posted on the Lincolnshire County Council website and the information will be broadcast on BBC Radio Lincs and Lincs FM.

The school has the facility to send text messages to inform parents of the school's closure. We will endeavour to notify all parents by text as soon as a decision has been made to close the school.

#### **Parental Survey**

In the coming weeks we shall be seeking the views of parents as to how they think the school is doing. This will be done through an online survey that will take about five minutes to complete, and I would be grateful if you could complete this. It can be done anonymously and the intention is to use the feedback to inform the School Development Plan, make improvements to the school, and build upon our existing strengths.

Mr K Jones Assistant Headteacher

#### **PE Kit and School Property**

A gentle reminder to please label all PE kit and school clothing/property. Thank you.

