



Abraham Darby Academy

Haberdashers' Adams' Federation

Members of the Family of Haberdashers' Schools

Principal's News

Week 13

28th November 2008

Federation News

One of the driving forces behind the Federation between Abraham Darby Academy and Adams' Grammar School is the sharing of best practice across both schools, benefiting pupils and staff in both institutions. Below is a brief summary of areas where this work is in progress.

Mr Barcroft has delivered a number of sessions on Behaviour Management as part of the Federation programme of Professional Development. Through the Federation Learning and Teaching Group Mrs Coshan, Mr Davis, Miss Moszynska, and Mr Barcroft are contributing to the development of Learning and Teaching resources. Mr Davis is currently undertaking research into a creative science curriculum which will be disseminated to Adams' staff in the near future. Mr Gillespie is offering expertise to Adams' as they introduce an 'activote' system as part of their work developing AFL (Assessment for Learning). Mr Barnard has organised training in technical theatre which will be attended by representatives from Adams'. Finally Mrs Pocock is working with Miss Bowater at Adams' to develop the role of students in analysing and understanding their learning.

Mr Hadley is providing Learning and Teaching support to trainee and NQT teachers that are based



at both schools. While Mrs Harris and Mr Lambert science teachers at Adams' are being observed by members of the Abraham Darby Academy science department. Members of staff at Adams' have agreed for their lessons to be filmed and used by Academy staff as a training resource. Mr Bowdler is offering training in Assessment for Learning to Academy staff and The Training school has secured the services of Dr Barry Hymer to speak to Academy staff about stretching the most able. Finally Mrs Bainger is working with

Adams' science department to investigate post 16 learning and teaching strategies.

Pictured above Mr Hickey who will take over as Training School Manager in January and Mr Hadley who will be the new Vice Principal for Curriculum at Abraham Darby Academy.

"Don't fall into the valley of excuses"

- the only person you cheat is yourself.

'Life is about ...

Have you ever tried completing the sentence, 'Life is about ...

Sometimes it is tempting to equate life's meaning with the number and quality of friends you have, whether you are accepted by people or feel lonely and rejected. Many adults give the impression that the meaning of life involves making money and having a large house. But is life really about these things?

The following is a piece of advice given to an eighteen-year-old just about to start college. It's by Jack Canfield and from a book entitled "Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul."

Life isn't about keeping score. It's not about how many people call you and it's not about who you've dated, are dating or haven't dated at all.

It isn't about who you've kissed, what sport you play, or which guy or girl likes you.

It's not about your shoes or your hair or the colour of your skin or where you live or go to school.

In fact, it's not about grades, money, clothes or colleges that accept you or not.

Life isn't about if you have lots of friends, or if you are alone, and it's not about how accepted or unaccepted you are. Life isn't about that.

But life is about who you love and who you hurt.

It's about how you feel about yourself. It's about trust, happiness and compassion. It's about sticking up for your friends and replacing inner hate with love.

Life is about avoiding jealousy, overcoming ignorance and building confidence.

It's about what you say and what you mean. It's about seeing people for who they are and not what they have.

Most of all, it is about choosing to use your life to touch someone else's in a way that could never have been achieved otherwise. These choices are what life's about.



EcoAbDab needs YOU!

Science Club this year has a mission and it needs you!

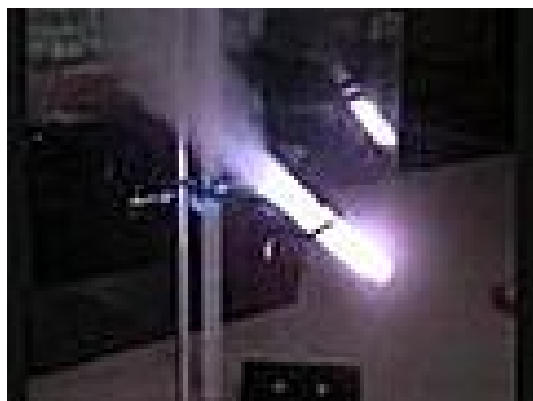
We are a group of staff and students who are passionate about Science and the Environment. We are EcoAbDab!

So far we have looked at how we think the school could help the environment by changing some of the things we waste e.g. paper and electricity

We also do lots of fun experiments (making green eggs and screaming jelly babies) and discuss science issues.

Our aim for the year is to get the school an Eco-Schools award and also put together a plan to get a bursary from EDF Energy Company!

If you think you could be a part of a our friendly (and a little crazy!) group come along to our meetings on Wednesdays 3-4pm or see Miss Davies (C14) or any of the Science Staff.



Gideon Bible Presentation



This week members of a group called The Gideon's have been visiting Year 7 RE classes. They gave a Bible to all Year 7 students who wished to receive one. Mr and Mrs Watkins have been coming to the school for many years.

They explained that free bibles are given out all over Britain, in hotels, prisons, hospitals, schools and even cruise ships.

The Gideon's are a group of Christian people who give up their own time and money generously. The name Gideon comes from a story in the Bible. Gideon was a soldier who led his troops into battle. It is said he won the battle even though his army was outnumbered. He used clay jars with lamps inside to help him do this. This symbol is used by the Gideon's today.



Mr and Mrs Watkins congratulated the students on their behaviour and how well they listened.

Planning for Real

Members of the Academy's student council, renamed the Abraham Darby Academy Team, (ADAT) have recently begun working with the Neighbourhood Initiative Foundation (NIF). The students are learning how to organise and run a consultation activity within the local community. This is proving to be a very exciting and informative project.

It has been great to see students from different year groups developing their team building and discussion skills. Further information about the project will appear in future newsletters.

Donation to the Showband

Abraham Darby Academy Showband have received a generous donation of £1,000 from Madeley Parish Council. This is to help finance the New York trip in March 2010. The Band are extremely grateful for their generosity.



Girls House Football Results

Years 9, 10 and 11 – Ash were the winners with a total of 18 points, closely followed by Elm on 17 points and Beech and Oak gained 13 points.

Well done to everyone who took part.

Art of the Week



This weeks 'Art of the Week' goes to Molly Brookes of 9 KSW. She produced this fantastic homework after looking at 'The Scream'. Can you spot the difference? Instead of the Scream figure, Molly has put a self portrait in!! The detail in the hands is excellent. Well Done.

London Trip 2008

On Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th November 2008 Performing Arts staff ventured afar with 23 GCSE Drama, Dance and Music students to London. Here the students took part in a number of activities such as a Dance workshop at the famous Pineapple Studios, working alongside a cast member of 'Hairspray'. Later that night they went to see the show, after dancing in the aisles and a good night's sleep at the Royal National Hotel students returned to the stage at the Fortune Theatre. They took part in a Drama workshop based on 'The Women In Black' which they dared to watch that afternoon. An eventful and exciting couple of days for all students and staff involved, a fantastic opportunity that everyone embraced with a mature and enthusiastic manner.

Thank you to all students who made the trip a huge success, you were a pleasure to take!!!



Gifted and Talented

Peter Davison of 9RGH is pictured at a G&T maths and Physics workshop, presenting his groups work at the end of the day. A group of 10 year 9's worked with able students from other Telford schools at a workshop that challenged them to create structures, using their maths and physics skills.



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With my very best wishes

Steve Hawke
Principal