



# Heron'sbridge News Spring(2) 2014

## Leavers

Mock interviews for 15 students took place last month and were very successful. The two interviewers from industry were very complimentary about the students' preparation and the standard of the forms they had completed. Body language, confidence and eye contact with the interviewer were all held up as strengths, so well done to all.

We have recently visited two separate careers events in the local area. A group of Year 13 and 14 students visited an event at Bridgend Rec organised by Careers Wales. This was aimed at young people making decisions about their future in the next few months. Stands included a number of work-based learning providers and organisations offering volunteering opportunities.

In addition, a group of Year 12 students visited a careers event at Pencoed College. Again, many organisations were present, including representatives from local colleges and training organisations.

## Autistic Department

It has been another busy half term where we have been looking at different kinds of weather. The children enjoyed joining in with the stories. We experienced different weather and jumped in muddy puddles. A2 made their own kites and flew them in Porthcawl. All the pupils enjoyed raising money for "Cheeky monkey"- 20 laps of the school, baking cakes and lots of other exciting activities. Lots of fun was had by all. We have had a busy term as in addition to all of this some children have attended LAP, NAP and OLAP and the Story Café with their parents in school.

## Primary

This term our topic was weather so all classes have had lots of fun going out and about to different places. Some classes went to fly kites, see windmills and float boats in Bryngarw park. The department also enjoyed World Book Day again this year by dressing up and swapping books with friends. We also had lots of fun on Cheeky Monkey Day where we had to do 26 actions to raise money for the charity supporting children with cancer. We all also took part in our St David's Day concert and competed in the gymnastic competition where lots of medals were won and 8 pupils qualified for the finals coming up soon. We also supported Fairtrade fortnight by taking part in the poster competition which class 5 won! Parent training has also been help for parents including Signlaong and Incredible Years.



## Dates for the diary

### April

**11th** Easter Bonnet Parade.

**10th** Mencap session for parents

**11th—13th** RHS Flower Show  
Cardiff.

**11th** Break-up for Easter (return  
to school on Monday 28th April)

### Seniors

We had a regional heat gym session where 16 children qualified for the Welsh national finals . A team of 31 represented and competed in the heats .Bridgend Herons ( afterschool club) hosted a FAW football tournament in Skewen . A team went to Caerphilly to participate in a Tag rugby tournament. The choir performed in the Mayor's charity concert at school.

### Training

We have continued to offer a variety of training and development events to both staff and families alike. The SCIP trainers have been very busy putting on a programme of twilight training with the help of our occupational therapists, manual handling updates have continued and many staff have been involved in LNF moderation events with our partner special schools across the consortium. A big thank-you to all of our dedicated trainers here at Heronsbridge for putting on a varied and successful programme of events.

In January we were also extremely pleased to welcome Music Therapy students Amy, Heather & James from the University of the West of England, who started their five month placements at Heronsbridge. They have been working with a variety of pupils offering a much needed programme of therapy.

The school also hosted a Multi skills staff training course.

### Friends of Heronsbridge

It's been a very quiet half term for the Friends. We have been busy organising different events for next term (more info to follow next term). The friends would like to thank Graham from Logo toys for his constant support and wish him a happy retirement.

The Heronsbridge Re-Cycles Bike Workshop project is accepting donations of old and unwanted bicycles. Our Social Enterprise Coordinator Matt has been hard at work applying for funding to support the renovations needed for the Workshop. If you would like any more information please contact Matt.

### Family Matters

This term we are holding a drop in session every Tuesday from 8.45 until 10.30. It is an informal session where you can borrow or purchase items from the loaning library and talk about any issues that you have.

This session is run by our Family Engagement Officer Karen Davies. We have had several informal information sessions "Wills and Trusts" and Cerebra.

### Attendance

Our most recent whole-school attendance figure is 91.5% this shows a slight improvement since Christmas, thank-you. We would like to remind you that it is vital that you give your child every opportunity to reach their full potential by ensuring that they come to school every day. Thank-you for your consideration and co-operation. Congratulations to class A1 who currently have 97.2% attendance, followed very closely (in rank order) by classes A6, C7 & A5, who all have over 95% attendance.

### Heronsbridge Moodle Website

Keep up to date with all school information and our latest news by visiting our Moodle website on <http://moodle.bridgend.gov.uk/heronsbridge/>

*If you would like to talk about any aspects of your child's education  
you can telephone (01656) 653974*

*or email [admin.heronsbridgeschool@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:admin.heronsbridgeschool@bridgend.gov.uk).*

*We would like to remind parents that we do have an open door policy and welcome all  
contact with parents and families.*