

# Citizenship Day Newsletter

All of the following articles were produced by NTS pupils during our annual Citizenship Day. They have reported on various activities that were taking place during the day. They have been edited solely for the purpose of this newsletter. The original articles can be found in the shared documents on the school network. Ms Williams

## Citizenship Day is a greenhouse where students will grow and develop their people skills and learn life changing skills

Citizenship Day is an event held at The Nelson Thomlinson School once a year. Citizenship Day offers pupils time off time table and work to have a day doing pleasurable activities. Activities happen throughout the day that students and teachers participate in. The activities included American Football on the field, to Afternoon Tea, making cakes and treats. Activity's take place all around school from the Technology rooms to the Peter Ireland Building. The event has taken place every year but with a different theme for different years as well as different events.

## Volleyball

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2015, the Sports Department held a thrilling game of volleyball on the school field. They took advantage of the great opportunity of Citizenship Day to teach students from years 7-10 the skills (dig, spike and block) they'd need to play a terrific game of volleyball.

Three nets were positioned across the bottom half of our school field and six teams were battling it out for the glory of winning the mini tournament. Assisting them are Miss McCormick, Mrs Lee, Miss Wilson, Mr Birch and finally Dr Parker.

The game looked like it was very energetic and fun. It seemed to appear very exhausting, people were still determined but at the same time they were enjoying a brilliant game of volleyball. Teachers just as much as students! Mrs Lee said in her interview that the sport didn't take much organising, that you could play with two trees, some rope and a ball!

All in all the NTS volleyball players really enjoyed themselves; there was a huge turnout with the six teams and 5 teachers. Many would probably think that they should have a volleyball team for this school! It would certainly be something Mrs Lee would like as she answered "definitely" to more sports!

## Kids Make Cake

**Lead by Miss Bryan, the creative workshop of *Cumbrian Afternoon Tea* craftily encourages the students to enjoy half a day of fun cooking and learning the secrets of traditional Cumbrian tea-making.**

Cumbrian Afternoon Tea is held in technology rooms T4, T5 and T6, and all years are welcome. Of course, the best part of the whole experience is eating the products at the end, which comprised of scones, cakes and sausage rolls with a cuppa.

The overall effect is outstanding and the products do look very delectable. Miss Bryan explains why; *'We've got the sausage rolls which have sausage meat in from the local butchers – Richard Harrison's.'*

Obviously the key to success is using succulent local food and tirelessly planning ahead. Nationality also provides the key; *'We've made the Grasmere gingerbread to show Cumbria produce.'*

Students are encouraged to take pride in their county – students Molly Wren and Lucy Irving explain their feelings about the activity; *'My favourite thing here was the sausage rolls because I like sausage rolls and the meat in them is Cumbrian.'*

The spirit is high when the girls where asked why they chose this activity; *'I chose this activity because you eat food and its fun making it.'*



## An Asian Experience

All the activities all had an authentic Asian feel. Origami, the art of folding paper, how to draw simple Manga characters and how write your name elegantly with a traditional brush and ink using Japanese Characters.

Students who took part said *"Origami is a challenging yet fun activity"* – Caitlin Lister. *"Manga is very simple, entertaining and fun"* – Josh Person. *"By using Hiragana I learned a how to write in Japanese, it was great!"* – Ciera Hager.

Mr Broster, who ran the activity, also said that he wanted to have more foreign activity as it is important to learn about and experience different cultures. He already runs Asia Club which inspired him to create this activity for Citizenship Day.



## Fun with Flags

Many people don't know the meaning behind flags; what they mean, what the different colours represent and also the history behind flags. There is a whole world behind each different flag and the pupils of Nelson Thomlinson School have been investigating these in the form of cakes. "We've been baking, decorating and icing cakes as well as learning about different flags." says a pupil, wearing her green school emblem proudly.

As well as tucking into colourful cakes they have enjoyed learning different facts about flags such as every colour has a different meaning: red means danger, white means peace, orange means courage and green means safety. Also people have been using flags for over 4000 years and they were originally called vexilloids, coming from the Latin word for 'guide'. *"The day has been better than I expected and I believe that this session will benefit me in the future because I now have a good knowledge behind flags."* Says another NTS student who participated in this activity.

This session has given students sky high knowledge of flying flags, which they have expressed in our interviews. Mrs Newton said *"Everything has gone really well, this should definitely be done more than once a year!"* This statement sums up most students opinions on this fun, flag filled day.

## African Drumming

NTS got the chance to experience traditional African drumming and give it a go themselves! They used different African drums such as: Djembes, handheld percussion and South African drums to perform various styles of music and rhythms.

Wearing a violet dress and black tights Miss Raven told us *"Everyone enjoyed it and it will support people in their music lessons as it ties in with class work."* One of the pupils said *"I was so happy to have gotten my first choice, I have learnt so much in the space of two hours!"*

They were taught some of the interesting facts behind African drumming such as: the talking drums of Africa imitate the pitch patterns of language, transmitting messages over many miles as well as the oldest and most famous African drum, the Djembe is approximately around about 2500 years old!

The session gave students a chance to travel back in time; from the days of mobile phones and iTunes to the days of drums and dancing and let out their wild side! Each boom and crash tells a different story as African tribes used to use the power of songs to tell traditional tales, which the pupils learned in this activity. This experience will stay with students for years to come and the memories will remain for a lifetime. An amazing day, loved by all!

## Alan Sugar in the Town

Based on the TV show legend Alan Sugar, Miss Walker is leading a workshop designed to make the year 7s and 8s think creatively and innovatively to craft a successful new business concept that will *hopefully* impress the judges.

The atmosphere in *the room* was fairly relaxed and everyone was working on their own jobs. When questioned, Lauren Bates said *"some parts of the exercise were challenging, but the whole thing was fun and relatively easy"*.

When asked why she organised this activity, Miss Walker replied; *"I teach business and economics so we do a lot of enterprise activities and I run the Young Enterprise in school. I'm just giving the younger students the chance to take part in enterprise activities too."*

Despite the fun, children looked at Citizenship activities as more than missing a day of school. Charlotte Hetherington explains why she chose *Hired or Fired? In or out?* as her activity; *"Because it's good to develop my skills in things such as business."*

When asked if she thought she was going to learn anything today that she could use in the future?' she replied; *"Yes, I think I will learn to work as a team and help encourage teamwork in others."*

In conclusion, the success of the day was high and the work was rife; the perfect extra-curricular activity.

## It's the Wheel Deal

Watchtree Wheelers is a charity who offer specialised bikes that benefit people with disabilities. They have bikes for all ages and qualified coaches to assist with learning to ride the adapted bikes. Children of all ages from The Nelson Thomlinson School were able to experience the specially adapted bikes and get a sense of what it would be like to live with a physical disability.

Children initially learnt of the benefits of these bikes, and then got a chance to try them out themselves. On average, these bikes cost around £5000 each, all of which is raised through charity. Children were hopefully influenced to help with fundraising for this remarkable charity, and to tell their friends and raise awareness.