

Performing Arts Report The Commonweal School Term Five May 2010

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Term five has been a whirlwind of activity regarding projects and project planning for term six. Ali Sutcliffe, head of music, has gone on maternity leave and Helen Clements has come back as acting head of department in her absence.

During terms four & five the Performing Arts Faculty underwent an School Management Team (SMT) inspection following the new Ofsted process. The outcome was very positive – as we would like to think was expected! But it felt good to have this confirmed by the teaching and learning review team. In the judgement and findings report, all of the XPA subjects, under each of the judgement criteria, were deemed to be good, with many outstanding features.

Myself & Josie have also been busy this term reviewing & again updating all the SSAT objectives for 2008/2011. There are only a few outstanding objectives left to meet and very soon we will be planning the next exciting phase. Sue Derrick, Head of Performing Arts.

The highlight this term has been the Swindon Festival of Literature Youth Poetry Slam, further info in the May edition of Commonweal Matters. The quality really does get better and better and this year we saw a lot more boys taking part and also a group of home educated students who took to the stage like a duck to water! Staff and students from across the Swindon schools put in a lot of effort honing the performances which as usual are all incognito with school names hidden from the audience by their made up team names. Only two schools dropped out last minute, so not a bad show considering! The Commonweal School took first and second place and Isambard Community School scooped third place.

The annual work experience week for Yr 10 with Big State Theatre Company was once again a brilliant project and the 17 GCSE Drama and Creative & Media students who took part learnt a lot about the theatre industry and its various job descriptions. The week culminated with a drama performance in the Wyvern's Studio One to which friends and relatives of the students were invited to attend. Thank you to our partners, The Wyvern Theatre, for letting us use the space.

The Big Hat network is currently working towards the Big Hat Cabaret staged at The Arts Centre on Friday 9th July. Angie Smith from Upham Rd Centre has secured £4,900 for the network to develop and put together a programme of events from Sept 2010.

The GCSE drama performances took part this term and the standard across the board was high with some really outstanding performances. Well done to students

and staff for going that extra mile. Thank you also to Nick Weaver for his continued support sorting out lighting and sound effects.

The Inter-house dance completion attracted a large number of dancers who gave up their lunchtimes to rehearse and compete.

We are offering Yr 6 pupils from our feeder schools after school clubs in drama, dance, music, art and tennis. These take place during term six and are free and delivered by Commonweal teachers to aid the pupils transition into Yr 7.

Dance leaders. Year ten dancers have been spending their core PE lessons working with year 6 students from King William Street Primary school. Before Easter they spent class time devising group dances, and planning sessions that they could lead to the Year 6's. Now they have the opportunity to work with the Year 6's, who will be performing the dances at the Primary Schools Dance Festival next term. This is a fantastic opportunity for our year 10 students to gain valuable leadership experience, and a fantastic chance for the Year 6's to practice dances, ready for the festival. Mrs Harman.

Music and dance clubs continue working towards the Old Town Festival, at The Lawn on Saturday 26th June. Once again we will be providing the Commonweal Performing Arts Marquee where schools and community groups can showcase their talents.

Salsa Fitness sessions with Claudia Stroud are being staged at the Town Gardens Bowl on Sundays 6th, 13th and 20th June. This is part of our community dimension objectives.

The Creative Switch anti smoking film project starts the end of this term and throughout term six. We are making two films, one with Yr 9 and the other with Yr 10. The latter will be used as a peer educators project delivered by Yr 10 to Yr 9 during Miss Browning's autumn assemblies.

Forthcoming events term six

- **Sala Fitness Sunday's 6th, 13th & 20th June, Town Gardens Bowl, 10-11am, no need to book.**
- **Saturday 26th June, Old Town Festival, Family Party On The Lawn, 1 – 8pm**
- **Monday June 28th , Primary School's Dance Festival at Commonweal, aimed at our feeder schools.**
- **Thursday 1st July, Yr 9 Animation Workshop**
- **Thursday 1st July, Secondary Schools Dance Platform**
- **Wednesday 7th July, Yr 6 Drama Challenge Day at Commonweal.**
- **Friday 9th July, Big Hat Cabaret at the Arts Centre commencing 7.30pm**
- **Saturday 10th July, Big Swindon Does Art Day**

