



EBOR ACADEMY

News update

Keeping people in Filey in the picture · Autumn 2015



New school is off to a flying start

A warm welcome to our latest newsletter.

This term, along with myself, we have 16

new members of staff who I will introduce you to at the upcoming parents' events. Our first staff member to be profiled in this newsletter is Miss Hall, see back page.

The start of a new school year is always special: students moving up a year group, developing in maturity, academically, emotionally, creatively and of course physically through the many sporting opportunities we provide. To watch and see children transform into responsible, independent young people is always a privilege for those of us lucky enough to work in a school environment.

The start of this school year was also special in that we officially opened as Ebor Academy Filey. I'm sure that you will all agree how proud and smart the students look in their new uniform. We have introduced more challenges to students in terms of readiness to learn and expectations around behaviour and quality of class and homework presentation.

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Owls of delight: Bobby Dunn, left, a Year 6 pupil of Hunmanby Primary School, with Michael Jarju, a Year 10 Ebor Academy Filey student and Rolo, a European Eagle Owl, at the science inspiration day

Science at Hogwarts

Ebor Academy Filey was transformed into Hogwarts for a science inspiration day involving the area's primary school pupils.

Some 150 children took part in three of the 12 hands-on Harry Potter-themed workshops, planned and delivered by members of the Ebor teaching team.

Enthusiastic junior wizards investigated floating liquids

in potions class and made their own bubbling lava lamps. Other workshops involved flying broomsticks, making colour changing cup-holders, investigating frozen hands and designing, making and tasting their own magical herbal tea.

Ebor Academy Filey is set to become a lead school in the delivery of the science curriculum. Our new team of professionals are keen to

share their skills and love for the subject.

"We are creating a science department that will enthuse the next generation of scientists," said Mr Andrew Galbraith, Headteacher.

"This unique opportunity enabled students to see science as a lively, engaging subject which they will develop further when they move into secondary school."

Lots of activity planned for future

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We have had a really busy first half term. I visited Year 7 at Lakeside on their residential visit, attended the Sea Cadets Inspection, visited a number of our partner primary schools, held our first open evening, Macmillan coffee morning and Year 6 "Harry Potter" themed science day. We have also built new links within the community to help further develop the provision for students.

We have much more planned for the coming months and another Year 6 taster day on 26 November 2015.

Keep completely up to date with what's happening on our website, www.filey.ebor.academy and remember, we welcome visits to the school, which can be arranged at a mutually convenient time, plus comments and suggestions via admin@fs.ebor.academy. Follow us on Twitter @Ebor_Filey
Andrew Galbraith,
Headteacher

Here to make a difference

Mr Andrew Galbraith is the first headteacher of Ebor Academy Filey, which replaces Filey School.

Mr Galbraith was formerly deputy headteacher at Knowsley Park School in Prescot, Merseyside.

He said: "This is a fantastic opportunity to make a real impact on the community. I am both excited and privileged to be leading Ebor Academy Filey into a new chapter in Filey's education history."

Richard Ludlow, CEO and executive headteacher for York-based Ebor Academy Trust, which runs the school, said: "Andrew brings energy, enthusiasm and an obvious passion for education. I am thrilled he has joined us at exactly the right time and I look forward to working with him."

This is Mr Galbraith's first headship. A keen sportsman and cyclist, he previously



Mr Andrew Galbraith, Headteacher, with, from left: Olivia Valezo, Deputy Head Girl; John Storey, Deputy Head Boy; Lewis East, Head Boy; and Hannah Botterill, Head Girl

visited Filey as a teenager on a rugby tour.

He has ten years' experience as a school

governor which he credits as valuable experience to understand the impact a school has on a community.

"I am a parent myself so I fully understand why a good education is important," he said.

School Council ensures charity event goes well

The Macmillan coffee morning was the school's first public event.

School Council members wrote to Tesco asking for ingredient donations – which 17 of our student leaders used to bake cakes. Students were also encouraged to bring in their own contributions.

On the Friday morning we had an early start



rearranging the hall and setting up plenty of service points so that we could serve students in their

break time (which the Headteacher kindly agreed to extend).

We also had a raffle and stalls selling Macmillan stationery and bracelets.

We were grateful for a lot of help, including from Mrs Mary Kirby (Aunty Mary), a member of the local Macmillan Cancer Support Group.

We were pleased to see

many visitors – it was a really great atmosphere. There were donations of cakes which were all delicious. The magnificent sum of £531.04 was raised on the day.

We would like to give special thanks to an anonymous student in Year 11 who donated a significant amount of their own money to the charity.



Fired up: Dr Richard Gammons and his combustible methane bubbles were popular with visitors



Délicieuse: Tasty treats at the French café

OPEN DAY ENTHUSIASM: Over 300 parents and children took up the chance to look around and get to know more about how the school has changed since joining Ebor Academy Trust in September. In his presentations to visitors, Headteacher Andrew Galbraith extended an invitation to parents to visit the school in action during the day.

Roles for all in family service dining

Family service dining at lunchtimes is one of the ways we help students bond with one another. It is all about instilling good manners and helping

others. It is a time when every single student has a job to do – laying the table, serving food, or clearing away at the end.

Family service dining was

introduced for Years 7/8, replacing a canteen culture where students leave their trays behind, expecting an anonymous cleaner to clear up after them. Here, they demonstrate kindness and a sense of responsibility.

Teachers eat with the students and play a special role in helping them develop the art of conversation at the table.

Understanding each others' needs and getting along with other people is an important skill which we are fostering with our students. We need to prepare our young people for employability, and

being able to communicate effectively with a range of people will give our students a head start on that journey.

"I would urge all parents or carers to take the opportunity to visit the school, to observe lessons, to stay for family lunch and to see for yourselves how much students enjoy both lessons and lunch and how much they learn every single day," said Headteacher Mr Andrew Galbraith. "I guarantee you will be immensely proud of your sons and daughters and their developing maturity."



Miss Megan Hall

My route to Filey

There is a famous saying I have been quoted on numerous occasions, which is: you can take the lass out of Yorkshire but you can't take Yorkshire out of the lass.

This rang true when I decided to take up my post here. Having studied for both of my degrees and a CELTA (Certificate in English Language Teaching Adults) in Norwich, I decided that Yorkshire was the place for my first full-time teaching post. Students up north seem to have a greater sense of humour and openness about them, which makes the classroom an even more fantastic place to be.

I have travelled to a few places, teaching English as a foreign language: a university in China and summer camps across Italy. I have also lived in New Zealand, where I made wine and picked kiwi fruit! I love travelling and aim to visit a new place every school holiday, starting with Paris over half term.

Outside of school I am a keen member of the WI and through that have learned to knit (a skill I am passing on to my Year 7s), to make a rag rug and have heard from guest speakers that have widened my outlook on life.

I am a vegetarian and love to cook and the students got rather worried at school when they thought I was eating chicken – until I told them it was Quorn!

Filey has already created many fantastic memories for me

including the Lakeside trip with Year 7, a place where I went on a school trip myself (many years ago!) And I am looking forward to various theatre trips planned across the year with key stage 4.



A welcome from the Parent Focus Group

Ann Arnell is the Chair for the Parent Focus Group (PFG), along with Mary Corner, the Chair of Governors. The PFG is here to support the parents, grandparents and carers of all students at Ebor Academy Filey.

Other members of the group are Debbie Ingham, Sue Hollier and Kerry Welsby.

We bring a lot of diversity to the group – we range from businesswomen to nannies to care managers for people with special needs. What brings us together is our own children, who range from Year 7 to Year 11.

We felt the parents needed a voice and Mr Galbraith has been extremely supportive



Some of the members of the Parent Focus Group, from left, Ann Arnell, Sue Hollier, Debbie Ingram and Kerry Welsby

and believes, as we do, that parents need to be heard.

We meet at regular intervals through the school year, also there will be drop in sessions as of January, so if you would like to come along and see what we are about, get

involved or have a chat about the school, we would like to hear from you.

Our next meeting is at 6pm on 9 November at Ebor Academy Filey. Further dates to be published through Mr Galbraith's school newsletter.



Year 7s: in at the shallow end



LAKESIDE ADVENTURE: Year 7s enjoyed teambuilding in the Lake District. Here's what three participants had to say...

"It was a great experience. I loved seeing people's reactions to them trying out new things."

– **Poppie Daniels**

"I have never done raft building, canoeing or orienteering before. I also made some new friends."

– **Max Short**

"I thought I would not like it because I'd never been away without my family – but I had a great time."

– **Caitlyn Murray-Rae**