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# CLARE MOUNT

SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE



Newsletter  
No. 122  
April 2016



SEN SPECIALIST  
SCHOOLS

## ***Front Cover***

Mr Jones and his GCSE Geography students on a fieldwork trip to the Jurassic Coast in Dorset here posing in front of Durdle Door.

More photos in the Newsletter.

## **Community Sports Night**

Community Sports Night will recommence next term for a further ten sessions.

These will take place on the 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> April; 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> May; 8<sup>th</sup> (Family Sports Night), 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> June and the 6<sup>th</sup> July.

No meetings on 29<sup>th</sup> June; 13<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> July.

## **Return to School for Students**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Spring is here and so too is the spring holiday!

The second half of this term has whizzed by and as per usual we have crammed in lots of events, fundraising, trips and yet another prestigious award ceremony.



Starting with more baby news, after a patient wait Miss Greenop delivered a healthy baby boy and named him Reuben. Both Mum and baby are doing well.

Thanks for your support with Year 9's Forum Housing 'chocolate' collection. As ever, you rose to the challenge again and your generosity is very much appreciated by all involved.

Thanks too for supporting our recent Tesco Bags of Help campaign – I'm delighted to tell you that Clare Mount came 1<sup>st</sup> out of the 3 local projects and have been awarded the sum of £12,000 which will be used to create our eagerly anticipated sensory garden.

In March we held our IEP Review evening for students in Years 7 and 8 and it was pleasing to see so many parents in school. Thank you too for your very positive feedback; it's really helpful for school to get a real feel for your thoughts and views. Annual Reviews are well under way and Year 8s and 7s will follow when we return after the Easter break. We have celebrated Literacy Week incorporating World Book Day, Science Week with Parent drop in sessions and Numeracy Week with a myriad of activities and competitions.

This month we have seen students heading off on not one but three residential trips. Nine of our Year 11 GCSE Geographers made the long journey south to participate in a fieldwork trip to study coastal erosion and features in Osmington Bay in Dorset. The trip was a huge success and the sun certainly shone on them from start to finish. A second group of our students ventured to London to complement their Media Studies course and thoroughly enjoyed a visit to Sky Studios. A third group of students who have been working incredibly hard and attending extra Maths lessons at lunchtime in preparation for their GCSE exams were rewarded with a trip to Wembley Stadium to watch England play Holland.

*Continued over...*

Finally, I am delighted to report that Clare Mount was awarded *School of the Year for Inclusion* at the recent Youth Sports Trust awards ceremony in Coventry earlier this month. The award recognised that Clare Mount has been the Youth Sport Trust Inclusion School for Merseyside for the last six years and in this time has trained thousands of teachers and leaders in inclusive PE practice. We've developed inclusive school games events and competitions as well as establishing various projects such as Unified Play with the Special Olympics in the area. It is a wonderful accolade to hold, one that as Headteacher I am immensely proud of and one that reflects everything we strive to deliver here at Clare Mount.

Best wishes for a lovely spring break.

Kim Webster

Headteacher  
March 2016

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## Active Kids Reminder

Thank you so much for sending in your Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. The vouchers are available in store until Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May and can be handed into to school right up until Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

With your continued support we will be able to purchase some new equipment for the children which otherwise we wouldn't be in a position to fund.

Thank you again!



Sainsbury's  
**Active Kids**  
Eat well • Move well • Live well

# From the Governors

Another term draws to a close; another term of success and achievement for our teachers, students and the name and reputation of Clare Mount Specialist Sports College.

The highlight this term has been voted as 'best in the country' at the 'Outstanding Schools Award for Inclusion' at the Youth Sports Trust Conference in Coventry. This is a massive achievement and recognition of the hard work and immense efforts of our staff and students.

There were further achievements however this term. In January we received the International Eco-Schools Green Flag Award for continued excellence in improving the environmental performance of the school and wider community. The assessor's comments have left us, as Governor's, feeling extremely proud of our association with our school:

'I left this school totally inspired. The students were bursting with brilliant ideas and enthusiasm for the work they do. You can clearly see it makes a big difference to their school life and self-esteem. The answers the students gave to my questions were some of the best I have heard'

Earlier this month we know many of you were involved in supporting the 'Tesco Bags of Help' campaign for our sensory garden. Your efforts produced an amazing result to win the grant and the first prize of £12,000. Work will be starting shortly which will benefit many of our students.

And so onward to next term when we are sure further success will come our way. Our Community Café will be opening and we hope many of you will come to support our new venture. We will also be hosting the annual Wirral Governor's Conference in April which attracts a national speaker and will provide an opportunity for us to 'show-case' our school.

Finally a 'thank you' to Mrs Webster and all her teaching staff, students, parents and carer's for the hard work everyone has given to this last term's success and the continuation of the high reputation of Clare Mount.

Enjoy the break and see you back next term.

# Performance Success

In November 2015 students from Clare Mount had the privilege of performing at the Floral Pavilion, New Brighton as part of the



Shakespeare for Schools Festival. The audience and our school were thrilled with the professionalism of the students in the cast and it seems we were not the only ones! We received this special letter from the festival reviewer and it's so incredible we wanted to share it with you.

Miss Vicars

# A huge thank you!

Year 9 wish to thank everyone who donated an Easter egg or Easter toy to their charity Forum Housing. Pictured are just some of the Easter donations!

A representative from Forum Housing said 'We are just so grateful for all the contributions from Clare Mount Specialist Sports College. It makes such a huge difference to our young people. I can't thank you enough.'

Year 9 will be collecting summer items later on in the year.

Thank you from Year 9 and Miss Vicars



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## Chinese Whispers

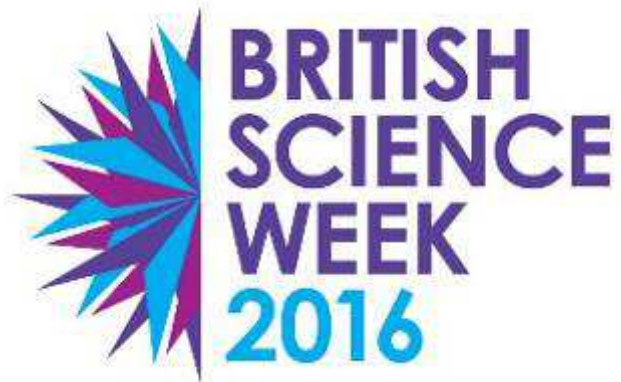
Clare Mount students learned about and celebrated the Chinese New Year during a whole school assembly.

Mrs Neill watches Connor and Nicholas who paraded in Connor's home-made Chinese Dragon.



# British Science Week 2016

It was another busy Science Week at Clare Mount. Many lessons came out of the lab as students tested model hovercrafts on the corridor, launched rockets on the field and dug in the garden.



Once again Science Week gave students the opportunity to explore Science in the World around us using this year's theme of 'Science in Space, Spaces for Science.' Some year 7 and 11s took part in the national 'What's Under Our Feet' project which is helping scientists understand how the number of worms (and other invertebrates) affect bird populations.

As well as taking part in the survey year 7s designed and launched model space rockets. Year 8s looked at 'Build Space' designing and testing model bridges and hovercrafts. Year 9 were looking at 'digital space' creating automatic devices using the electronics kits. They also had the opportunity to make bouncy balls - always a popular activity!

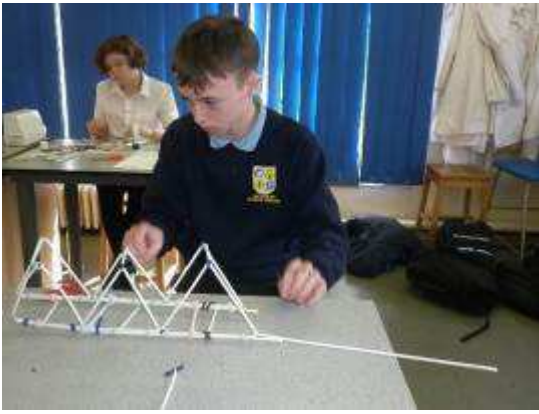
Year 10s made telescopes and nylon and extracted DNA from kiwi fruit. Some groups in year 11 continued working hard with coursework for their BTEC qualifications but will have chance to do these activities when their coursework is submitted.

Across the curriculum other subjects showed how Science is used in their areas.

Besides students going out of the labs, we opened the labs on Wednesday and Thursday evening so parents could come in and have a go at some of the activities and experiments their son/daughter does in Science.

These few photos show some of what we did but please visit the Science part of the school website to see more.

Mrs Nokes



Year 8



Year 10



Year 9



Year 11



Year 7



# World Book Day 2016



Students celebrated a literacy week earlier this term incorporating World Book Day into the celebrations. Students were able to enter competitions, complete activities, visit Clare Mount's very first free book shop (where they were all able to help themselves to a free book) and dress up in their favourite book-inspired costumes.

Competition winners included James for his outstanding alternative Harry Potter book cover, Jodie for inspiring reading with a fabulous poster, Lauren for her wonderful Gangster Granny inspired costume and Charlie for naming the most characters on the World Book Day banner.

Congratulations to all of the winners and a huge "thank you" to all staff, students and parents for supporting Literacy Week and World Book Day.

Mr Lindsay



# Nine go Mad in Dorset

*or*

## The Geography Fieldwork trip to the Jurassic Coast

Nine Year 11 GCSE Geography students took part in a fieldwork trip to the Jurassic Coast in Dorset looking at Durdle Door (front cover) and Lulworth Cove. Students learnt about coastal management, coastal erosion and where to find the best ice cream in Lyme Regis.

Mr Jones

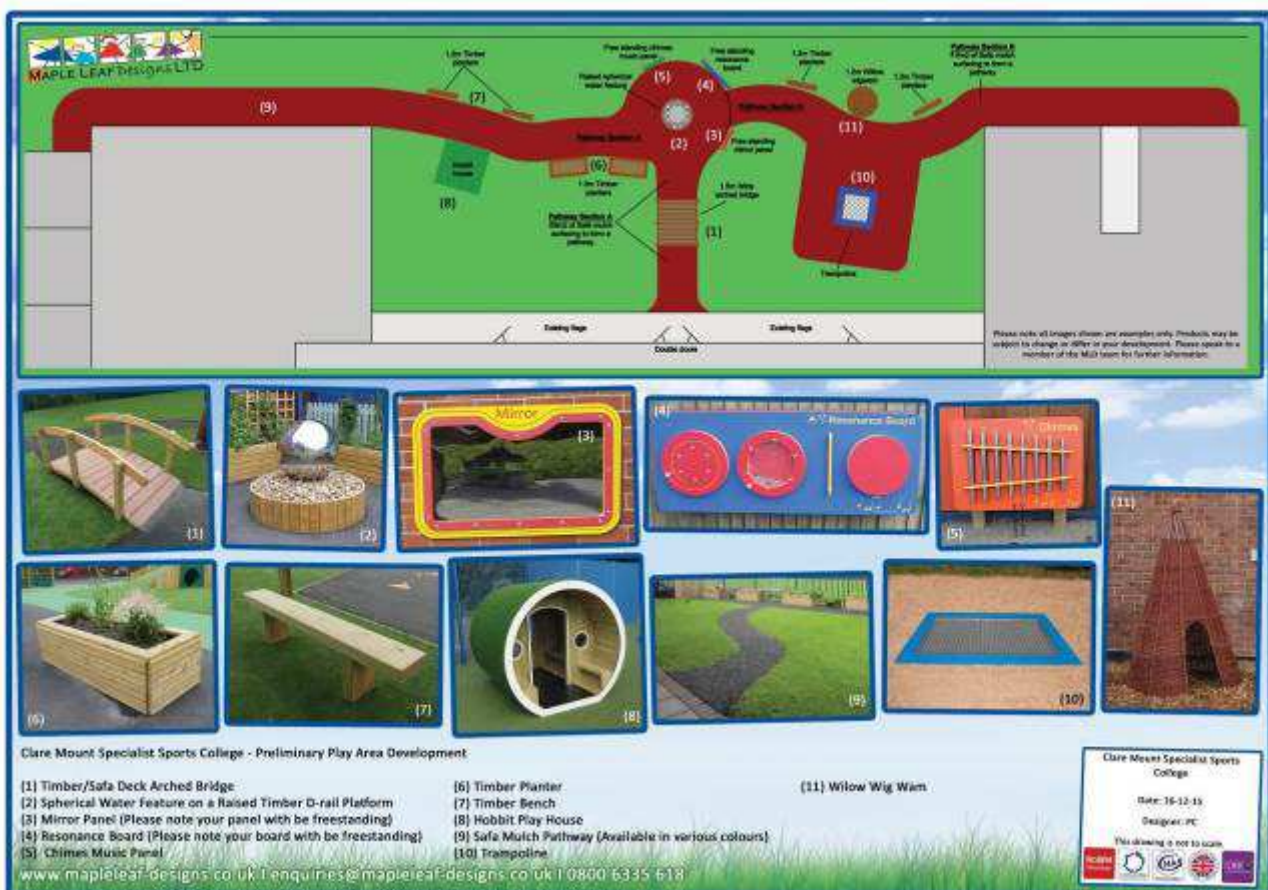


# 'Bags of Help' from Tesco

Clare Mount has successfully secured £12,000 in funding from Tesco towards developing a new sensory garden. Work for the garden will start in the Summer Term.

Our project was one of three shortlisted to receive either an £8,000, £10,000 or £12,000 grant. Thanks to all the students, staff and friends of Clare Mount who voted for us in local stores.

*Right - Adam encourages people to "vote for Clare Mount" in Heswall Tesco on work placement.*



If anyone knows of any companies who might wish to support phase two of our plans then please encourage them to contact [d.keefe@claremount.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:d.keefe@claremount.wirral.sch.uk)



# Boys chosen for England

As reported in the last newsletter Harry (Year 11) and Paul (Year 10) have been chosen to represent England at the **World School Sport Education Games** in Greece.

Following a raffle in school and two race nights organised by the parents £2050 has been raised to pay for the travel, accommodation and kit.



There is a final push to raise the remaining £300 needed and Card Craft Club have been busy making and selling cards to help raise money towards Paul and Harry's trip.

# Careers Interviews

Alex from the Wirral Young Chamber supported Sixth Form employability students by carrying out careers interviews in school over a number of weeks. The students were well prepared and took the process seriously including the preparation of their CVs and getting themselves ready to be interviewed.

Alex was able to hold an in-depth discussion with all of the students and give them the right advice to suit their future needs.

Alex said the students were an absolute delight and she would look for potential opportunities in the working world and wished them every success in the future.

Mrs Boyle

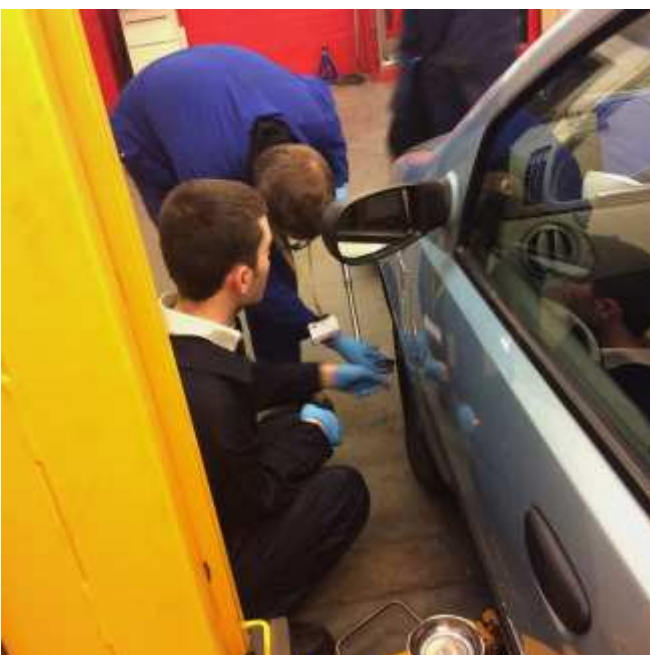
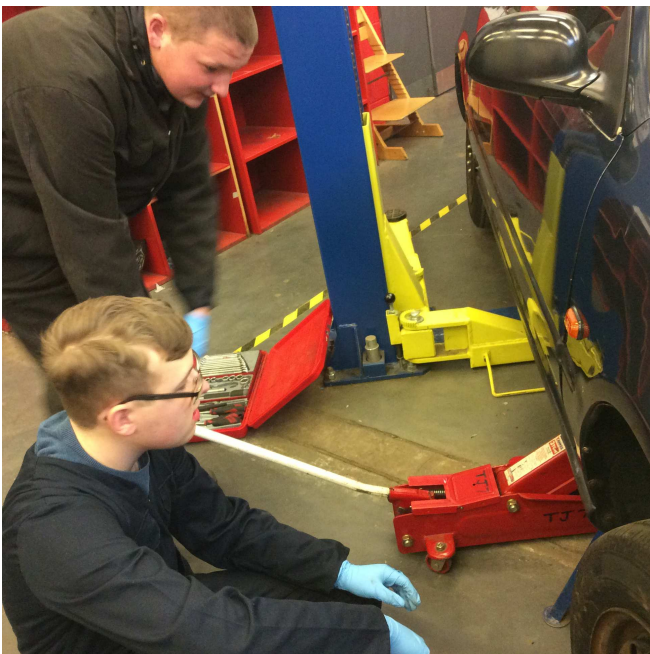


# College Education

At Clare Mount we support the students' education and transition into further education with groups attending college for various practical subjects which include motor vehicles, construction and ceramics.

We have recently started taking the students earlier to the college at lunch time to allow them to have their lunch in the college environment prior to their course starting in the afternoon.

The students enjoy the experience and it has allowed the students to fully appreciate the college experience rather than just turn up for the course.



# Careers Fair – Tranmere Rovers

Working in partnership with Wirral Young Chamber all Year 10, 11 and Sixth Form students attended the Your Future Careers Fair on Tuesday 15th March at Tranmere Rovers Football Club. This event was for young people aged 14-24 to inspire, enthuse and motivate them to think about prospective careers, the employment options available to them and to make the most of their remaining time in education.

There were hundreds of other young people attending from the local area and the event included:

- Attendance by local businesses who provided information on careers in their companies
- Employed young people shared their real life experiences of what to expect in employment and what career progression options are available
- 'Have a Go' activities were provided by a variety of organisations in different industries to give the young people a taster of what is involved in the work place
- 'Get Involved Workshops'
- Information to raise awareness of the broad range and levels of Apprenticeships
- Attendance by local Colleges and Universities
- FREE Goodie Bags to all young people who attend

The students fully engaged with the activities and took away lots of information to read and absorbed at home.



# Year 8 Number Cruncherz

Following on from our numeracy week earlier this term, students in Year 8 enjoyed taking part in the Number Cruncherz project led by coaches from Sale Sharks, including former England rugby player Hendrie Fourie.



Students participated in a touch rugby session and then looked at income and expenditure with the coaching team as part of a maths lesson.



We hope to arrange a trip to watch a Sale Sharks game later in the year as part of the project.

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## Sixth Form News

Ciaran, James and Jordan have recently begun their work experience placement at Dale Farm in Heswall. Situated on the edge of Heswall Dales, Dale Farm provides a day service for adults with disabilities giving people the opportunities to learn life skills through the therapeutic use of horticulture. The Farm is run as a non-profit partnership between Wirral Council and the Dale Farm Trust. It is accredited by the Soil Association and sells organic produce and flowers to the public.

James, Ciaran and Jordan have been learning different aspects of working on the farm from helping to prepare plots to plant vegetables and helping with the seeding of flowers.



# Merseyside Panathlon

Year 7 represented the whole of Wirral and when they took part in the Merseyside Panathlon held at Greenbank Sports Academy, Liverpool on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

They took part in boccia, table tennis, polybat, athletics and football activities. Well done to everyone for their brilliant efforts and sport performances on the day, for representing our school and borough so outstandingly, and, for having a go and a 'try' at something new and different.



# Sport Changes Lives

One of our year 8 students, Reeve, has come runner-up in the Youth Sport Trust National Awards 2016 in the category for Student of the Year for his resilience.

Reeve became involved in various schemes around the Rugby World Cup through the Sky Living for Sport project learning about the values associated with rugby and attending lunchtime tag rugby sessions, as well as enjoying tag rugby sessions in PE lessons. Reeve slowly gained confidence and even achieved 100% attendance in the Spring Term. The project has acted as a catalyst for on-going successes with Reeve attending our Summer School for two weeks acting as a mentor for new Year 7s and showing them that their anxieties will get lessened too.

He also represented the school for the first time ever at a tag rugby festival run by Wooden Spoon and Sale Sharks at the Carrington Training Ground. Reeve had the confidence to attend a Sale Sharks match versus Newcastle and even went on the pitch at half time. His courage and determination prompted the players from Sale Sharks to all write him a well done card and sign it. His confidence continues to go from strength to strength as does his attendance and he is looking forward to representing the school in the NW Tag Rugby Festival in the Spring Term.

*Reeve said: "Taking part in Sky Sports Living for Sport has inspired me to do lots more sports. I feel more confident about trying new things and going to big events like rugby matches. I used to be worried about going on trips but now I'm not. I'm looking forward to playing for the school again at the next event and maybe even joining the school football team".*



Reeve with his medal from the Sale Sharks Wooden Spoon Inclusion Festival (above), getting his Medal from former England player Mark Cueto (above centre) and with Olympic Boxer and Sky Living for Sport Mentor Natasha Jonas (right).

# Year 9 students get “Skills for Health”

5 students in Year 9 - Mia, Louise, Amy, Jack and Oliver - attended a six-week after-school programme organised by the NHS. This involved them attending sessions at Arrowe Park Hospital, alongside students from Bebington High and Bishops High (Chester). There they learnt about the different roles, skills and qualities required to be employed in the health service. The students took part in a range of activities including first aid, alcohol awareness and dementia awareness. The students have now been invited to attend a graduation ceremony at the Liverpool Echo Arena in June. Special thanks to Mrs Boyle, Mrs Devlin, Mrs Patrick and Miss Vicars for attending the sessions with the students.



*“The students have been a credit to themselves and their school”.*

*Lisa Waring, Youth Development Co-ordinator.*

*“Just a note to say how well behaved all the children were last night. Each school should be so proud of having such clever, articulate and caring children. All were able to demonstrate the 6 Cs with ease. The children were a credit to you and every one I have spoken to has said they would welcome them back. Thank you for the opportunity of meeting such lovely people”.*

*Tracey Lewis, Head of Clinical Excellence & Organisational Development*



# Unified Training

Mr Keefe and Mr White trained as tutors by the Youth Sport Trust to help spread the word about PlayUnified a brilliant Special Olympics programme to promote social change and the end of intolerance towards people with intellectual disabilities [www.playunified.org](http://www.playunified.org).



Mr White and Mr Keefe at the Youth Sport Trust in Loughborough taking part in PlayUnified training.

Clare Mount then delivered a workshop presentation at the 2016 Youth Sport Trust Conference, on how mainstream schools and special schools can come together to break down barriers by playing sport together. Picture shows delegates including Tim Shriver (Global Chair of the Special Olympics), the FA and other 'movers and shakers' involved in Inclusive Practice in PE and Sport.



# Winter School Games

This term has also seen Merseyside's Winter School Games. It has been a jam packed couple of weeks filled with hundreds of children from both primary and secondary schools across Merseyside representing their boroughs.

This year Wirral has performed exceptionally well with 8 Gold, 5 Silver and 4 Bronze medals as well as 4 Spirit of the Games awards from 19 Competitions.



Clare Mount was one of the schools to receive a Spirit of the Games award for their sportsmanship and determination during the New Age Kurling Competition. Well done to everyone who participated.





Mr Stanley (Head of PE), Mr Keefe (Director of Sport), Mr White (Inclusion School Lead), Mrs Webster (Headteacher) and Miss Green (School Games Organiser) being presented with the award by Got to Dance judge and Pussycat Doll Kimberley Wyatt, along with representatives from Pulse, who sponsored the Award.



## My Goodness

A group of Clare Mount students recently attempted to break the Guinness Book of Records for the tennis equivalent of 'Keepy-Uppy'.



# Clare Mount is School of the Year

Clare Mount Specialist Sports College has been awarded the Outstanding School Award for Inclusion by the Youth Sport Trust at the Ricoh Arena on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016.

Over the last few years Clare Mount has achieved the Association for Physical Education Quality Mark with Distinction, the School Games Gold Kitemark and has been shortlisted for the Merseyside Sport Secondary School of the Year for the last 3 years, winning in 2015.

Clare Mount has been the Youth Sport Trust Inclusion School for Merseyside for the last 6 years and in that time has trained thousands of teachers and leaders in inclusive PE practice, developed inclusive school games events and competitions as well as establishing various projects such as Unified Play with the Special Olympics in the area.

As well as the success of Clare Mount, one of our partner Schools, Bebington, was awarded the Outstanding School of the Year for Health and Well-being. Alongside Bebington, we are part of the North West Healthy Schools Consortium which has involved us in a range of exciting health initiatives such as Personal Best and 'Skills for Health' which look to develop employability skills through PE and Sport.

"It was a brilliant night for Wirral. To have two of the six national awards going to Wirral schools shows the strength of our PE and Sport provision in the area. Both schools share a common vision that sport changes lives and we regularly see the impact of our programmes on the attendance, behaviour and self-esteem of the young people involved" said Kev Byrne, Health and Well-being Lead at Bebington.

"Clare Mount and Bebington have always worked closely together to develop PE and Sport provision for young people on the Wirral and have both been named Merseyside Sport Secondary School of the Year in 2014 and 2015 respectively. For both schools to now gain national recognition at the same Awards is very special and testimony to the hard work, dedication and innovative practice which happens in both schools" added Dan Keefe, Deputy Head and Director of Sport at Clare Mount.

# Training Teachers to deliver Inclusive PE Lessons

As an Inclusion School for the Youth Sport Trust, Clare Mount trains hundreds of teachers and trainee teachers in best practice in physical education and sport each year. Below is just some of the fantastic feedback a training session this Term for 55 trainees at LJMU.

- “Shed light on a very daunting area of teaching and has provoked some useful reflection with regards my own personal teaching style” – Anna O Hanlon, St. Nicholas (Blundell Sands)
- “I enjoyed taking part in the practical session this morning – something I wasn’t looking forward to – but it was great and I feel more confident about PE and inclusion” – Maria Dalton, Pleasant Street.
- “It was a positive experience being involved in the activities and experiencing them first hand. I now have an understanding of how to differentiate a P.E. lesson which I haven’t really thought about before” – Katherine Lonsdale, St. Matthew’s Primary.
- “I really enjoyed the physical session as I found it hard in the past to keep my PE lessons inclusive. I have learnt many new activities to do this. I am now more aware of how to manage the behaviour of some children” – Naomi Burns, Beacon Primary School.
- “Excellent flow to both practical and theory sessions. Loads of ideas of differentiation. Made me think about how easy it can be to make activities accessible to everyone” – Eilis Gannon, Liverpool Prep College.



# Students Gain Confidence from working with Athlete Mentors

Using student premium funding, a range of students in Years 9 and 10 have benefited this year from working with World In-line skating Champion Jenna Downing and European Skateboarding Champion Neil Danns.

Two groups of boys and girls each took part in three half day sessions with Jenna and Neil designed to develop their confidence, self-esteem and leadership skills. The programme culminated in a trip to Rampworx.

The students will now run a couple of community-based projects aimed at engaging some elderly residents in sports like boccia, and running a dodgeball festival for local primaries.



# **School Year**

## **2015 – 2016**

Open	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2016
<i>Closed May Day</i>	<i>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016</i>
Close for half-term	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2016
Open	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
<i>Closed</i>	<i>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2016</i>
Close	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2016

All staff training days shown. School closed to students on these days.

### **Advance Warning for 2016-17 & 2017-18**

<i>Open (Staff only)</i>	<i>Mon 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016</i>
<i>Open (Staff only)</i>	<i>Tue 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016</i>
<i>Open (Students)</i>	<i>Wed 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016</i>
<i>Close for half-term</i>	<i>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016</i>
<i>Open</i>	<i>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016</i>
<i>Close for Christmas</i>	<i>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2016</i>
<i>Open</i>	<i>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017</i>
<i>Close for half-term</i>	<i>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017</i>
<i>Open</i>	<i>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017</i>
<i>Close for Spring Break</i>	<i>Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017</i>
<i>Open</i>	<i>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017</i>
<i>Closed (May Day)</i>	<i>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017</i>
<i>Close for half-term</i>	<i>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017</i>
<i>Open</i>	<i>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017</i>
<i>Close for summer</i>	<i>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017</i>

<i>Open (Staff only)</i>	<i>Mon 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017</i>
<i>Open (Students)</i>	<i>Tue 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017</i>
<i>Close for half-term</i>	<i>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017</i>
<i>Open</i>	<i>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017</i>
<i>Close for Christmas</i>	<i>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017</i>

*A further three staff training days will be added to the 2016-17 calendar. Note that 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> September are closed to students.*

## **Return to School for Students**

### **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

# Year 8 Residential to Boreatton Park

The first week back after half-term, 21 Year 8s and 4 Post 16 leaders went on a residential trip to Boreatton Park. The residential to Boreatton Park is now the destination of choice for the Year 8 group having had two very successful trips there already.

What a fantastic time we had this year; the students were extremely excited and counting how many sleeps till the event itself. From the moment we arrived everything was in place to ensure we had the best time ever. The well-structured itinerary meant the students were on the go from morning till night and were never bored. The wonderful staff made sure every student had a go at all the activities on offer. Most required the students to work together as a team and the Year 8s did this fantastically.

The students enjoyed a whole range of fun activities including the zip wire, the giant swing, orienteering, the sensory trail and abseiling. There was a huge choice of food to satisfy even the fussiest of eaters and the rooms were a welcome haven at the end of the day to help you wind down.

Boreatton Park has certainly created a lot of great memories.

