



DINNINGTON COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER
2011

Issue 20

NEW BIOMETRIC CATERING SYSTEM

New Biometric Catering System – we started our new system on Monday 7th November 2011. All students were registered during w/e 4th November 2011, by having their thumb scanned at the till. The image is converted into a digital code which is stored on a secure biometric server. Money is loaded onto each students account via a 'Reval unit' which accepts coins (*no copper*) and notes, using their thumb. Students entitled to Free School Meals have their balance credited by £2 each day as before. There are three reval units in each House Base and students may use any of them. The units can also be used to check the students account balance. Accounts can also be topped up by cheques, **which need to be deposited in the box in Hatfield House Base**, made payable to 'Chartwells' with the students name and form written on the back. Plans are being made to enable online payments – more details to follow later. The value of food taken at the tills is deducted from each student's account. No cash is taken at the tills.

The benefits to school, parents and students of having the new system are:-

- New software, hardware and tills which won't break down regularly as the old system did!
- Less queues for food at the server
- Greater security, as students do not have to carry money around with them
- The ability to manage your own account via the reval units, and eventually from home (when online payments are set up). This includes the ability to control the amount spent.
- Reports on student take up of meals
- The ability to view individual student use
- Encouraging and monitoring healthy eating

As with any new system there have been some teething problems as we all get used to the new system. Here are some hints and tips to get the best out of the system.

- Try to visit the reval unit once per week and put enough money in to last you for the week wherever possible. This cuts down on queues at the reval units. Any money you have put into the reval unit, but not spent, will stay on your account until you are ready to use it. The units do not give change.
- When putting bank notes into the reval units use crisp new notes wherever possible. Crinkled and creased notes will not work very well in the unit.
- Notes must be fed in at right angles to the slot and as far to the left as possible. If your note is creased, smooth it on a flat hard surface before attempting to put onto your account. The reval unit has all of this explained on the front.
- When scanning your thumb press the green button before scanning and after you have finished. This clears the previous person's record from the machine.
- Remember thumbs which are greasy or dirty will not work on the reval units or tills. Give them a wipe and try again if you are having difficulty
- Thumbs only need to be gently placed onto the centre of the scanner
- Don't move whilst your thumb is being scanned. If you move around the scan won't work.

If your child has any special dietary requirements these can be accommodated by discussing with our Catering Manager, Mrs Bentley.

We always welcome suggestions for new menu items and any feedback on the food service. These can be left with the kitchen staff by completing a feedback card, available from the server. Or comments can be emailed to info@dcsch.co.uk

READING IS FANTASTIC

Several new ways of encouraging reading are happening around our school at the moment, and it would be great if you as pupils and parents could get involved.

A team of sixth formers have been trained to help younger students with their handwriting and spellings, meeting once a week during form time. Another team of enthusiastic readers in sixth form have also been trained to be reading mentors for Y7 and Y8 students, reading for pleasure during form time once a week, with some of our sixth formers also reading with much younger pupils at Dinnington Community Primary School.

We have also started reading during tutor time once a week – Hatfield on Tuesdays, and Osborne and Segrave on Wednesdays. We have book boxes with form tutors, but students can bring in their own books, magazines or newspapers too if they like.

Each half term, we have a new book catalogue to buy great reads at special offer prices. Catalogues go out in form time, but there will always be a PDF file copy on the Community SLG page. School receive 20% back of any money spent to buy books for school this way, so it is a good way to raise money as well as get a great new read. Cash or cheques payable to Dinnington Comprehensive School, together with a completed order form, should be given to Mrs Banks in En2.

Every Wednesday break time and lunch time, we have a Book Swap and Share group in the Osborne House Base: bring a book to swap and take away another one free of charge, plus get a free biscuit!

Year 7s will soon be getting a free book of their own during form time through the Booktrust company and the English Faculty will be running Readathon - a sponsored reading fortnight – soon ... more details to follow.

We are also looking to subscribe to magazines to take out or read in the library – let us know what you would like to see through your form tutors or by emailing d.banks@dcsch.co.uk

The biggest, best and most brilliant thing you can do to improve your overall chances in life is to be a keen and good reader..... taking time to find out what **YOU** like to read is the first step!

Mrs Banks.

Doe Quarry Lane
Dinnington
Sheffield
S25 2NZ

Phone: 01909 550066

Fax: 01909 550170

Email: info@dcsch.co.uk

(please check with reception for personal email addresses of staff)

DIRECT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Heads of House

Hatfield: Mr. G. Platt ext 498

Osborne: Mr. M. Lovett ext 447

Segrave: Miss G. Pickles ext 432

Athorpe: Mrs H. Butler ext 444

Assistant Head of House

Hatfield: Mrs Mangham 559535

Mrs Roberts 559558

Osborne: Mrs McFarlane 559532

Mrs Kirkham 559546

Segrave: Mrs Henderson 559539

Mrs Sell 559531

Athorpe: Mrs Jones 559545

NEW RECEPTION TIMES

Please note that reception hours have now been extended on Monday-Thursdays, as follows:

**Monday/Tuesday/
Wednesday/Thursday**
8.00 am to 4.30 pm

Friday
8.00 am to 3.30 pm

REMINDER:

Parents "Drop In" on Wednesdays after school, 3.30 - 4.30 pm, where parents can call into school, without an appointment, to discuss any issues or have a chat with a member of the



CONGRATULATIONS TO SAVANNA DARNELL

WELL DONE Savanna in winning the individual and duo (with Demi Spooner) British Street Dance Championships Under 16s.

CONGRATULATIONS TOO for gaining a place on the Musical Theatre Course at the Midlands Academy of Dance & Drama commencing next September.

**A STAR IN THE MAKING
- WATCH OUT BROADWAY!!**



Congratulations to the following girls for being selected into the England Rounders squads once more:

- Lauren Brown U19
- Lauren Hobson U19
- Caitlin Russell U16
- Beth Smyth U16

And the following girls play for the South Yorkshire U16 football team:

- Beth Smyth
- Olivia White
- Melissa Burgin

Isabel Canning and Abbie Hubbuck recently won their senior pairs modern dance championships in Doncaster.



**HOLA!!
YEAR 7 SPANISH CLUB**



If you are a Year 7 student and wish to speak the "Lingo" then why not join the Spanish Club on Monday lunchtimes in LA1 or LA2.

All Year 7's welcome!!

The HPV Team have moved to:

Dinnington Locality Centre
Caxton Way
Dinnington
S25 3QE
Tel - 01709 335047



BBC NEWS AT DCS



On Monday 31st October the BBC came to DCS to do a piece on Rounders at International level. Dinnington has the greatest number of England players from a state school all playing at the same time with 5 last season and including Miss Abdulkarim 6!! The BBC Sports reporter, Mike Bushell, came and played with the England players and Dinnington select students. He interviewed a number of students and Miss Abdulkarim, who is the first Muslim woman to ever play and coach at International level.

The school student journalist team also interviewed Miss Abdulkarim, the Chief executive for Rounders England and Mike himself!! The report is all being produced to be aired on BBC one television on the BBC breakfast show on Saturday 12th November!!!

CHILDREN IN NEED

Sixth Form students in the Charity Task Force did a fantastic job in organising a range of activities during the week.

Events culminated in the Fancy Dress Parade on Friday. Over £2,000 has been raised (with monies still being collected).

A superb achievement.

THANK YOU

CARE OF VALUABLES

There have been a few isolated instances of student's personal property going astray whilst on the school site in recent weeks.

Where students have lost items, we will do our best to work with the student to help locate them. However we are a large open site with over 1,300 students, 31 acres of land, 17 buildings. This can make tracing items very difficult.

With this in mind, we would recommend that parents arrange for home insurance cover for portable items such as mobiles, iPods, and headphones.

The School's insurance policy does not cover these items.

Anything brought on site will be at parent's risk.

OUTSTANDING PRACTICE AWARD

CONGRATULATIONS to the Learning Support Faculty who have received a National Award for Outstanding Practice in delivering ASDAN courses.

FUNDRAISING - GOOD NEWS

On Friday 21st October, school staff organised "PINK FRIDAY" in support of Breast Cancer, where cakes and buns were sold at breaktime, together with collections, to raise **£324.40** on the day (with money still being collected.)

Also a big thank you to those who contributed to the "JEANS FOR GENES" day which was organised by the Sixth Form. A total of **£308.78** was raised.

THANK YOU

'Consultation on proposed revisions to the current Transport Policy for Children & Young People - Post 16 Leaners.

The local authority wants to hear the views of parents/carers and students regarding proposed changes to their Transport Policy for Children and Young People. This will be of particular interest to parents of children in Years 11 and 12.

To view the questionnaire please follow this link <http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/info/200024/consultations>.

The closing date for completed questionnaires is 20th January 2012.