

## International Day – Saturday, July 1

Where else would you get to try out Australian Bush Dancing?

There will be food, games and live music from around the world throughout the afternoon, at Myddelton College's International Day, on July 1.

Bush dancing is an Australian style of dance, with music ordinarily provided by a bush band, based on traditional folk dances from the UK.

Foods available during the afternoon will

include cuisine from India, Spain, Germany and China, as well as Mediterranean, Thai and Mexican.

With all that, will you have room left for Pimms and Lemonade, candyfloss, ice cream and delicious homemade cakes?

The whole family can get involved in face painting, rounders, treasure-hunts and crafts throughout the day.

**12.30pm-4.30pm – Free Entry!**



## The Summer Term

What a year it has been! I can hardly believe we are in the last half term of our first year. We have seen lots of changes at Myddelton in this past year, as we found our feet and established ourselves as a new strong independent school. Our success is very much down to the support of our parents and the hard work and enthusiasm of our founding students and our committed team of staff.

This half term looks set to be the busiest yet. We have lots of key events to look forward to such as our production of 'School of Rock', our Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition and our Speech Day on the morning of 1st July followed by our International Fayre on the afternoon of 1st July.

We are also busy making plans to ensure we are ready to welcome our new cohort of students for the next academic year. Our boarding house is being developed and a new suite of rooms will be opening on the ground floor. The swimming pool has been cleaned out and painted ready to be used again in September and we have appointed some key staff to build upon the strong academic team already in place. We are making some exciting changes to the curriculum too, separating out PE and Sport from Outdoor Learning and also introducing Chinese Mandarin to our list of subjects.

As ever, I am looking for feedback and input from parents to help us make positive changes for the next academic year and I invite you to either email me or arrange a meeting to discuss your experience this year, or to share your ideas on how we can make Myddelton College even better for our students.

By Mark Roberts, Headteacher

## Year 12 Revision Fun – Guess Who?

The year 12 students have been continuing to work hard on their remaining exams. In Economics we have been playing lots of revision games to keep revision fun – see picture of two Year 13 students playing an Economics based 'Guess Who' game.



We are very much looking forward to welcoming our new students for years 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 to Myddelton College for our two transition days, 29 & 30 June. Both days will begin at 8:55am, meeting on the first day in the Great Hall, and finish at 16:15. There will be a wide variety of activities for the students to participate in over the two days, plenty of opportunities to make new friends, and to meet many of their new teachers.

## 'School of Rock' Rehearsals underway

During half term, the whole cast & crew of School of Rock came in for a full day rehearsal in preparation for the performances on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd June. They will also be performing a special matinee show for all of the local primary schools on Thursday 22nd June.

Our lead actor and singer, playing Dewey Finn, is Year 10 boy Matthew Budd. Matthew is also a member of the local "Only Boys Aloud" choir, who have gained national notoriety when they appeared on the television programme, Britain's Got Talent in 2012, where they came third in the whole competition!

As part of Only Boys Aloud, Matthew was kept extra busy during half term, as he performed in the opening ceremony of the Urdd National Eisteddfod in Bridgend on 29th May. This was quickly followed up by performing at the opening ceremony of the UEFA Champions League Final in the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff on June 3rd. We are very proud of his singing prowess at Myddelton!

Another of our students showcased her singing prowess closer to home, at the St Asaph Cathedral. Dina Campbell in Year 12, performed a programme of classical songs representing Myddelton College at the 5 Year Anniversary of becoming a city celebration concert on Sat 3rd June. As always, Dina performed beautifully and with great professionalism. She did this whilst studying for her AS exams, showing dedication to all aspects of her study and life in Myddelton; well done Dina!

The Denbighshire Music Cooperative continue to use Myddelton for their Academy rehearsals in preparation for their annual Summer concert on Thursday 22nd June in Rhyl Pavilion. Several of our students are performing as part of the Academy bands, and the School of Rock cast will be performing two songs from the show too!

In August, DMC will be holding their annual summer school, "Music Mania" at Myddelton. All pupils who play an instrument, sing or act are welcome to attend. The week long event starting on Monday 28th August, will comprise of workshops, rehearsals, games, performances, quizzes and generally a lot of performing arts based fun! The week will culminate with a concert to showcase the skills developed throughout the week!

## Triathlon Champion

Orla Davies won the second annual Stephen Lewis Aquathlon over the weekend, competing with the Denbighshire Triathlon Club at Ystradgynlais Sports Centre in Swansea.

The event, voted Welsh Triathlon event of the year in 2016, sees young competitors (aged 8-16) taking part from all over Wales in youth, triathlon and parathlete races run by Celtic Triathlon Club.

Orla entered the T3 category, completing a 400m Swim (16 Lengths) and a 2400m run in just 13:48 – more than a full minute ahead of second place. She finished the swim in 05:02.

The event is held in memory of police support officer Stephen Lewis, from Neath, who was knocked off his bike and killed during a family holiday in Devon in July 2015, aged 41.



## Boarders weekend trip – Welsh Mountain Zoo

On Saturday 13th May, the boarders went to the Welsh Mountain Zoo, in Colwyn Bay, for their weekend trip. There are many animals to see there, including sea lions, tigers and penguins. After walking around looking at all of the animals, many of the students decided to have a slush puppy, turning their tongues blue and red!

By Ms Edie Shemilt-Griffiths

## Inspirational Transatlantic Ocean Rower Stuart Boreham – motivates our students and staff!



Born with cerebral palsy, which affects his legs and mobility, Stuart has achieved some remarkable feats. He once travelled from John O'Groats to Land's End for charity on a ride-on-lawnmower – a first. Stuart was also a member of the first yacht crew made up entirely of people with a disability, or who had overcome a life threatening illness, to race around the world. He and his crewmates were competitors in the 1996–97 BT Global Challenge Yacht Race. He then became the first physically disabled person to row across the Atlantic Ocean, covering 3341 miles solo, unassisted and unsupported in 109 days 12 hours and 9 minutes. In recognition of these feats, the organising committee of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games asked him to carry the torch in London on its journey from Sydney to Athens.

Stuart captivated the students and staff, here at Myddelton, with some of the tales from his epic solo ocean row, exemplifying the core pillars of the college: Fellowship, Scholarship

and Resilience. Through the Fellowship built up between him and people and organisations, Stuart gained £82,000 in sponsorship, largely through goods in kind, which enabled him to build, equip and stock his boat with everything he needed for his voyage.

Stuart demonstrated Scholarship through having to learn about electrics, engineering and the mechanics of what makes things work so that he could be self-sufficient and repair equipment when it went wrong. His water maker was his most vital piece of equipment, enabling him to produce the 10 litres of drinking water per day that he drank. When it failed, applying what he had learnt before setting out enabled Stuart to fix it and save the day! Both in terms of the willpower required to stick at the task for 109 days alone at sea and, particularly, overcoming the set-back of being blown backwards for seven days, demonstrated to the assembled audience the point, and purpose, of Resilience.

Stuart inspired his audience with a quote from the former Olympic athlete, Carl Lewis: "If life was easy, everybody would be good at it", before explaining that he was advised by Sir Chay Blyth, who rowed the Atlantic with Captain John Ridgway in 1966, to abandon his plans due to the risks involved, not least amongst them being rescued or lost at sea. Not to be dissuaded, Stuart recounted to the assembly a quote attributed to Walt Disney: "If you can dream it, you can do it".

Having achieved his goal despite the set-backs, difficulties and great challenges along the way and, in the process, raising £25,000 for Macmillan Cancer Relief, he is testament to that quote.

Stuart approaching the finish of his epic solo, unassisted and unsupported voyage, from the Canary Isles to Barbados, in his rowing boat "Macmillan Spirit", after 109 days and 3341 miles.



Arrival! Stuart landing in Barbados on 3 March 2004

## Myddelton Student Parliament

There is no getting away from politics at the moment and election fever has also hit Myddelton College. By the time you read this we would have already held our mock election day and the winners will already have been announced. I am very intrigued to see which way our students voted and what political leanings they have.

At Myddelton we like to empower our students to be decision makers in the school

and to take on leadership roles and positions of responsibility. To this end, last half term saw the launch of the Myddelton Student Parliament. Each house has elected three students to be members of the student parliament (or MSP's) and these are joined by our senior sixth form team.

At our first meeting, key positions were voted for:

**Chairperson:** Lucy Charlesworth-Powell  
**Vice Chairperson:** Leon Shaw-Hodgson

**Secretary:** Lara Martin

**Treasurer:** George Charlesworth-Powell

**Vice Treasurer:** Tom Lewney

We also discussed a range of issues including: Mobile phones, sports provision, the school environment and how to better integrate our international students into the College.

The Parliament will meet every fortnight and the members will be up for re-election in January.

## Ceramic Workshop

Just before half term the artist Wendy Lawrence came into school to work with year 9 and 10 pupils. The aim of the day was to create pieces of sculpture. Wendy talked to the group explaining how an artist works and how she makes a living. Examples of her work were shown and discussed. The theme for the day was natural forms and each pupil was given a bag of clay to experiment with. As you can see from the photographs, an amazing range of work was created. The work is now drying out and should be placed in the kiln in 2 weeks. We then hope to glaze and re-fire them by the end of term. Year 10 art pupils stated "it was an amazing day and an inspirational experience"



## New Staff

As we look to build our outstanding team, I would like to use the remaining newsletters this term to introduce you to some of our new recruits. In this edition I have the pleasure of introducing you to two of our new recruits who join us in September.

Ian and Andy will be joining the Senior Leadership Team as Assistant Headteachers and will be looking after our academic programme. They will take the lead on developing our teaching and learning strategy and will oversee our curriculum and assessment programme.

Ian has 13 years' experience in education and has taught Mathematics, Computer Science, ICT and Numeracy in three local secondary schools. He has also worked behind the scenes for Conwy Education Services and had responsibility for timetabling, examinations and data management for one of the largest schools in North Wales. He joins us from Ysgol Treffynnon, where he was the Lead Teacher for Mathematics, Numeracy and ICT.

Ian is also a qualified Archery Coach and would like to share this passion as part of our 'Learning through the Outdoors' curriculum. Past and present hobbies include: chess, acting, singing, dancing and enjoying a wide variety of music.

Andy joins us from Barnard Castle School, an Independent Boarding School in County Durham, where he has worked in various roles for the past 15 years. He is currently the Head of Psychology and Religious Studies, where he has achieved many successes including three National Good School Awards for his results at A level and GCSE. Andy is a Boarding Housemaster; he has enjoyed managing the day to day pastoral and academic care of 55 boys for the last 8 years.

He enjoys organising charity work with pupils in the school and introduced a Peer Support Mentoring service, where older pupils mentor younger ones, as a result of his work with the Samaritans and his research during the completion of his MA in Education from Durham University. Andy is also an avid Manchester United football fan (we won't hold that against him) and he is looking forward to playing lots of football with Myddelton pupils, as well as organising some Premier League football trips.



## APP relaunch for Myddelton – Please Register!

We are re-launching our school app to allow parents to check and read all the latest school news, term dates and key events – and also contact the school by telephone or email from within your smartphone. ã

It will also allow us to communicate directly with you by sending letters and messages via the app and to specify particular groups, such as parents of children in a particular year group, for more targeted message delivery. Registration means that only parents and relatives known to the school can register.

The app is free for parents to download from Apple's App Store or Android's Google Play Store by searching for 'Myddelton College'. Alternatively, you can navigate to this address on your smartphone <http://appcontrolpanel.co.uk/download/4045994> and select the appropriate operating system Android or Apple.

Preparations are in full-swing for the inaugural Myddelton College Speech Day on 1 July. All parents are invited to join us for this special occasion, beginning with coffee in the West Wing at 10:30am, and concluding with a glass of bubbly on the back lawns. The speeches will take place in the Great Hall, where we will also have performances by some of our talented pupils and prizes will be awarded to recognise particular attainment and achievement.

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