

Express School News

Celebration Open Evening for White Hills Park Federation

AS the White Hills Park Federation reaches the end of its first year of operation, the three schools that united to form the Federation are planning a Celebration Open Evening.

The event will be held at Bramcote Park Business & Enterprise school (located in Bramcote Park, near to the Bramcote Leisure Centre) on Tuesday, July 15. Activities will commence at 6pm with an array of live student performances and displays of student work, alongside news of plans for the Federation for the immediate future.

Organiser Nick Allcoat said: "We invite parents of current students, as well as those parents with children in Year 5 and Year 6 at local primary schools, to come along and witness first-hand the good work being carried out as the Federation completes its first year."

White Hills Park Federation was formed when Bramcote Hills Sport & Community College, Bramcote Park Business & Enterprise School and Alderman White School & Language College joined forces last year to pool expertise and resources.

Girls encouraged to keep up with PE

THE Broxtowe School Sports Partnership held its first ever 'Girls in PE' Conference this week, aimed specifically at Year 9 girls across Broxtowe.

Recognising that there is a national trend for girls going into KS4 education to 'drop out' and make excuses for missing Physical Exercise (PE) lessons, the Broxtowe School Sports Partnership came up with the idea of a conference aimed at motivating and encouraging this target group to see the positive benefits of taking part in PE.

Organised by Andrea Kilbane, School Sports Coordinator at Bramcote Park Business & Enterprise School, the one-day 'Go Girl' conference involved 70 Year 9 girls from the seven secondary schools in Broxtowe.

Held at the Pearson Centre in Beeston, the morning session involved the girls in activities that many of them would not have experienced in the past: yoga, 'boxercise' and hula dancing, with the aim of enthusing the girls about alternative physical activity.

After lunch, a 'market stall' was set up. Here, the Primary Care Trust offered

healthy eating advice and provided healthy foods to taste as Broxtowe Leisure Services provided information on how the girls could access PE out of school hours. Castle College, New College Nottingham and Beauty Therapy students from South Nottingham College provided mini therapy treatments, manicures and hair straightening for the girls.

Visitors to the conference included the Mayor of Broxtowe, Cllr Sue Wildey; Stapleford Town Mayor, Cllr David Grindell and sporting champion Hayley Glen, who plays Indoor Cricket for England.

The message driven home to the girls was understanding the critical link between looking good, feeling good, eating well and the importance of physical activity that PE in school provides for the young people.

Andrea Kilbane said afterwards: "All of the girls went home having had a positive experience, and the Broxtowe School Sports Partnership will look forward to seeing a decline in the number of girls making excuses not to take part in PE lessons."

Bramcote students set sail on voyage of achievement

TWO students from Bramcote College will put their teamwork and communication skills to the test as they sail from Newcastle to London on board the Tall Ship Stavros S Niarchos.

But this is no comfort cruise. Bramcote students Chris Brelsford and Jade Simpson will become signed-on crewmembers as soon as they step onboard, and be required to assist in all aspects of the ship's operation. They will learn first hand about geography and weather systems as they form part of a 48-strong youth crew from 24 schools across England and Wales taking part in the Tall Ships Youth Trust Voyage of Achievement between June 27 and July 7.

Immediately upon joining the ship in Newcastle, the students will be assigned to one of three 'watch' teams. Having just met for the first time, each watch will then spend the whole of the 12 day voyage working together, living eight to a cabin and rising at 4am for night watch duties as they cross the North Sea to northern Europe. Whilst onboard, the students will join forces with the permanent crew and take part in every aspect of sailing a Tall Ship: helming the 60-metre square-rigged brig, navigating, scaling her 45-metre masts to set and stow sails – and scrubbing the decks.

On July 7, they arrive in London and sail under Tower Bridge, the crew aloft

the 45-metre masts of the magnificent vessel.

This is the fifth time that students from Bramcote College have been offered two places on the Voyage of Achievement. Tim Law, Tall Ships Youth Trust Marketing and Operations Director, said: "For many, this voyage will be a life changing experience. A 'Tall Ships' voyage takes people out of their comfort zone and they find things within themselves that they didn't realise were there. Tasks such as climbing the rigging or helping prepare dinner for 67 people can give young people a real sense of achievement and self worth."

Operated by the Tall Ships Youth Trust and funded by HSBC Global Education

Trust for the eighth year, Paul Sinclair, Education Executive, HSBC Global Education Trust said: "HSBC continues to support the Tall Ships Voyage of Achievement because it wants to make a positive difference to the communities in which we operate. We have seen how sailing can be an inspirational experience outside the classroom and these voyages develop important life skills that the young people can take into their community, school or future career."