

Its 4U



14-19 News

Coming to a City near you soon



From September 2004 there will be two new sixth form partnerships in Sunderland. This year, students from Biddick, Oxclose, Usworth and Washington had the opportunity to move quickly and easily from completing their GCSEs to studying a wide range of subjects within the comfort and familiarity of a friendly school sixth form environment. Initially located at the City of Sunderland College's Shiney Row Centre, the sixth form will eventually

be moving to a new building on the Usworth School site.

The City of Sunderland College along with, Farrington, Pennywell, Sandhill View, Southmoor and Thornhill are all joining forces to create the latest new sixth form, the Bede Sixth Form Academy which will open its doors in September 2004.

This new idea brings schools and the college together in Sunderland, so that more continuity of education is guaranteed. Teachers from the schools will be working at the college and the Academy, and to ensure this is all done correctly – your Head Teachers and the principal of the college will be working together to make it run smoothly.

These are new and exciting changes within the City, complementing the existing provision of our three Catholic sixth forms. Watch this space for future developments north of the river and in Houghton and Hetton. When all the sixth form partnerships with the college are up and running, students will be able to choose which sixth form they want to attend as they do now.



How Well Did You Do In Your Exams Last Year?

Come on, give yourself a pat on the back Sunderland, you did very well !

The Year Nines in Sunderland improved faster than the national average throughout 2003-2004, and the year elevens last year increased their average point score to TEN TIMES the national average last year as well!

Not only that but the A level students managed a record achievement. They pushed the average point score from 235.6 in 2002, up to an amazing 257.8! That's a gain of 22.2 points, where the national increase was only 4.1!

The number of Advanced Modern Apprenticeship and Foundation Modern Apprenticeship frameworks completed and WBL leavers achieving at least one NVQ has seen a rise of 20%, well done again!

So we'd like to say well done to everyone last year, and lets hope the City sees more improvements this year!

Angela Wright began a Business Administration Modern Apprenticeship with Pennywell Community Business Ltd and is now employed as their Business Administrator

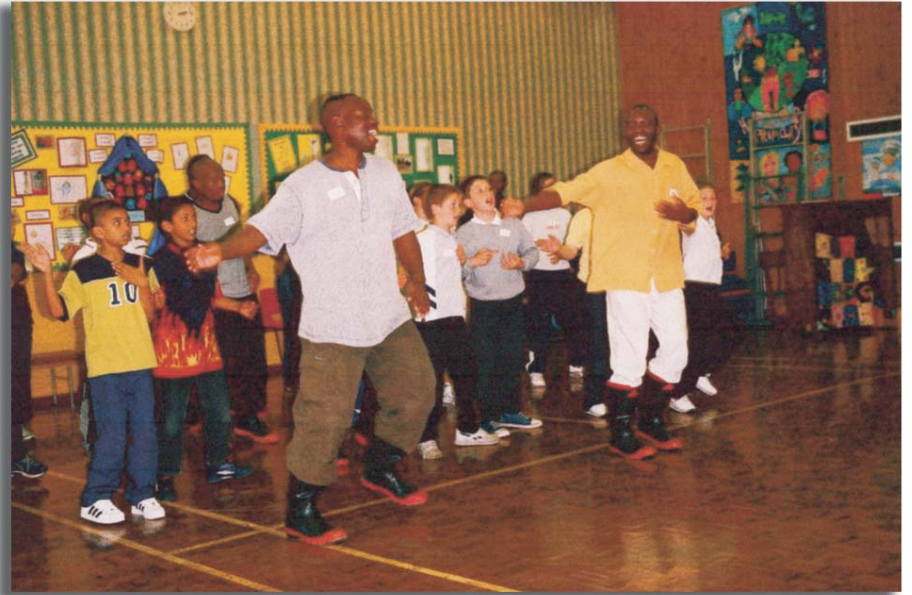


Curriculum News

Over the next few years there are going to be some exciting changes to the curriculum for years 10 and 11. All of the secondary schools in Sunderland are trying to offer a wider range of vocational courses for their students to choose from.

Across the City, students in year 9 are thinking about options and as well subjects like Maths, History and Science, they could be thinking about a course in Engineering, Construction, Leisure and Tourism, Beauty Therapy, Health and Social Care or Catering, to name just a few.

Sometimes the school will work with a partner to help deliver the vocational courses and this might mean travelling to a different school near to you, to a Work Based Learning provider, to an employer or to the College, for some of your lessons. 360 students are already doing vocational GCSEs at the College under the Increased Flexibility Programme. This will give you the opportunity to use different equipment, learn new skills and to experience a real work situation.



With over £220,000 from ONE North East schools have been buying new equipment and improving facilities. On another project 726 students from 13 schools have been involved in alternative vocational programmes. Some of the courses they did were, Motor Vehicle, Health and Social Care, Music, Building Maintenance, Gardening, Travel and Tourism, Drama, Business, Elderly Care, Engineering, Child Care, Hairdressing and Art.



What do the students think about these new courses?

Best subject at school – I like taking things to bits.

Good, like what we do, its different.

I like voc lessons.

I really enjoyed the course its helped me decide a bit better what I want to do in the future.

How to find out what is happening?

* Watch out for the next newsletter – this is just the first.

Would you like to help write the next one?

Would you like to join a focus group to help with future planning?

If the answer is yes, then please ring me on 553 2500 or email me at: maureen.marsden@connexions-tw.co.uk

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