



Ain't No Mountain High Enough!



Jake with his climbing suit, boots, ice pick and air tank

Jake is from Tetbury in Gloucestershire and was educated at Beaudesert Park School, Cheam School and Marlborough College. He has a B.Sc. (Hons) in Environmental Geoscience from Bristol University and is a Commissioned Officer in the Royal Wessex Yeomanry (C Sqn - The Royal Gloucestershire Hussars). He is a great supporter of a number of charities, including The Prince's Trust, Mountain Rescue England and Wales and 'The Make a Wish Foundation'. Jake is an Ambassador for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme and has presented Gold Awards at St. James's Palace. He is a true champion in every sense of the word and is a firm believer of fulfilling your dream and 'Having Life to the Full'.

Jake's climbing career started when he was aged only 12 and at 14 he set himself the challenge of attempting to climb the Seven Summits; the highest mountain on every continent. Aged 15, he watched the dawn of the new millennium, with his father, from the crater rim of his first summit, Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. At 18 he climbed Mount Elbrus in Southern Russia, Europe's highest peak. In 2002, he was awarded a 'Winston Churchill Memorial Trust' travelling fellowship to climb Denali, Aconcagua and Kosciuszko, the highest peaks in North and South America and Australia respectively. On the 4th June 2005, aged only 21 years and 4 months, he stood on the summit of Mt. Everest, his 7th continental high point. At the time he was the youngest Briton to climb Everest and the youngest male in the world to climb the Seven Summits.

As if this was not enough, in 2006 he broke the world record for climbing the highest mountain in every state in the continental USA; 48 States, over 100,000ft of climbing, 350 miles of trekking and 15,000 miles of driving in 23 days, 19 hours and 31 minutes!

If you want to read more about Jake you can see his contribution in the book 'The Best Day of My Life' by Giles Vickers-Jones and Humfrey Hunter. This is a compilation of true short stories written by celebrities and everyday people to inspire move and entertain - a good buy for the Christmas stocking.

On Monday, 8th December we were delighted to invite and welcome Jake Meyer to present the awards at our 'Annual Evening of Celebration' and I think we all have to agree that Jake was an excellent 'Guest of Honour' – sharp, witty, inspirational and enthusiastic. His anecdotes about climbing in Antarctica at -40 degrees centigrade were absolute gems. Jake is a real inspiration and what a fantastic role model for our students to aspire to. At twenty four years of age he has already achieved so much by climbing the 'Seven Summits in the Seven Continents'.

On Tuesday, 9th December we were also delighted that Jake took time out of his busy schedule to come into school to work with Miss Larkin (Lead Teacher: Geography), Mr Marsh (Lead Teacher: History) and be interviewed by four year eight students - Patrick Thomas, Julien Poulain, Ella Howes and Bethany Swindells. This interview and filming was for the first section of the Lead Teachers' Project - BBC News 'School Report'. For the students this was a fantastic opportunity to quiz Jake about how he got into mountaineering, what he felt like on reaching the summit of Mount Everest and what his next climbing projects are. The four students gave and filmed a very professional interview which they now need to edit. They had great fun dressing in Jake's climbing suit, holding the ice pick he used on Everest and trying on his size 12 boots! We look forward to an excellent finished product!



Everest expedition 2005

News from the Drama department

The past few months have been busy ones for the Drama department. We have held auditions for 'Sparkleshark'; watched a production of 'Knock Against My Heart' in the Theatre Workshop with Year 11 Drama students; welcomed actors in from Unpacked Theatre Company for physical theatre workshops with Year 10; begun a weekly Drama Club for Years 7 and 8, led by a Sixth Form team; saw an impressive, contemporary interpretation of 'Othello' at the Lyric in London and a cast of fourteen have started rehearsals for 'Snow Sorta White', an unconventional pantomime, directed by Henry Dell in Year 12.

This month saw the revival of 'Semantic Assembly Perform Kinship', which took place on Friday, 5th December at the Pavilion Theatre in Brighton. This original devised piece, created by Newman students Amy Sutton, Keira Heil, Christopher Matus and Mike Judson was accompanied by 'Stagehands', an hilarious piece of work, which was written, directed and performed by Nicholas Devlin and Ben Sutton. Friends and family all turned out to support them and everyone was royally amused and entertained! This bold endeavour was a grand success and we look forward to seeing future productions on such an impressive scale. *"Semantic Assembly Presents Kinship' and 'Their Stagehands' was great fun to be involved in. Although there was stress due to certain administrative and organisational inexperience on all our parts leading up to the evening, it seemed to pull itself together in the end - even if we were running about for props three hours before the show! We'd like to thank everyone for coming down and we hope you had as much fun as we did!" (Nicholas Devlin 12HT)*

Mrs Graves and I have just returned from London, where Jamie Muscato (ex-Year 13) performed in 'Perfect Pitch', a showcase of new musical material at the Trafalgar Studios in Whitehall. He will be understudying a lead role in 'Spring Awakening' by Wedekind at the Lyric in January. We wish him a very happy and successful career in the theatre. Anyone who saw him in 'West Side Story' will know what an amazing talent he possesses.

On Tuesday, 16th December we are off to see 'The Wizard of Oz' at the Theatre Royal, rounding off a term of trips, which began with the tremendous 'War Horse' back in September, when we had the added bonus of celebrity spotting, since Simon Russell-Beale and Russell Brand were both in the audience!

Finally we waved goodbye to Mrs Holland, who is now on maternity leave until next summer. She will be much missed and is in our thoughts. Meanwhile we welcome Miss Miles and hope she enjoys working with us over the coming months.

Archaeological Dig at Barcombe

Back at the start of the summer holidays some students from Year 10 joined the Sussex Archaeological Society and University of Sussex for an excavation at Barcombe. After the local farmer ploughed his field and uncovered some mysterious red tiles in the earth, archaeologists discovered the remains of a Roman villa and farm which have been the site of training digs for university students for a number of years. Cardinal Newman students joined the dig for a day-long crash course in Archaeology.

The day began with us learning to use a resistivity metre (or 'geophys' for those of you familiar with 'Time Team') to survey an unexplored piece of land. After that, students joined the rest of the archaeologists to excavate on the site of the villa's bath house: star find of the day was a fantastic piece of painted wall plaster. After lunch one of the professionals on-site explained how to go about reading evidence and piecing together the clues which help us to understand the past. Finally the students learned how to record using plan drawings which plot the villa in three dimensions.

The archaeologists were very impressed with the students' enthusiasm and hard work and hope very much that some were interested enough to continue their exploration.

Elvie Thompson - Sussex Archaeological Trust

Chinese Whispers Exhibition



George IV

As part of their GCSE local history study at the Royal Pavilion, Year 10 students from Cardinal Newman Catholic School came to Brighton Museum & Art Gallery to see the 'Chinese Whispers' exhibition and find out more about the history of chinoiserie as a design style. The interior of King George IV's Royal Pavilion is an eccentric example of chinoiserie, so exploring the 'Chinese Whispers' exhibition enabled students to place his passion for it in context and question the extent to which his choice of furnishings represented fashionable tastes at the time.

Students began their visit with a gallery talk that introduced them to the main themes of the exhibition and highlighted key exhibits on display. The talk emphasised the idea that chinoiserie was a European style inspired by decorative arts from China and was associated with femininity and the aristocracy. Students were also encouraged to recognise different motifs and patterns used in its decoration. Following the talk, students were given time to explore the galleries independently using worksheets that helped them to focus on key objects. Highlights included solid silver centrepieces inspired by Chinese porcelain, a pagoda-inspired day bed designed by Thomas Chippendale and a satirical cartoon depicting 18th Century trade relations between Britain and China.

The students engaged positively and actively with the exhibition, quickly grasping the main themes. They were able to identify the key motifs and symbols and were able to make the deductions regarding the changing attitudes through the centuries. In particular, they were able to place the Royal Pavilion in context and consider contemporary reactions to it both positive and negative.

The students' visits to the 'Chinese Whispers' exhibition are evidence of the ongoing partnership through the Humanities specialism between Cardinal Newman and the Royal Pavilion and Museums. Working closely with the History department has enabled the museum to better understand how this exhibition can support learning in schools and has enabled us to develop resources that are relevant and purposeful to students. The partnership offers opportunities to find creative links between the curriculum and the collections, explore and pilot different ways of working and work together to produce resources which can then be used by all schools in Brighton and Hove.

Jane Nash - Special Projects Officer, Royal Pavilion and Museums

Lewes Castle - Artefact Handling

Two ladies from Lewes Castle came to Cardinal Newman to show us some medieval artefacts. Our whole form was there with Mr Marsh. They brought in lots of objects, such as cooking pots, an old shoe, animal bones and an old carving knife that would have been used in the kitchen.

We learned about different types of people, the way they lived and used the objects that we were handling. It was really interesting to see how, what seemed like a lump of metal, was actually a rather disgusting device used to scrape out earwax on one side and be used as a toothpick on the other!

We also learned what type of food people ate, depending on how rich they were and how they dressed.

We really enjoyed it. It will help us to understand our Year 7 History topics a lot more!

Caitlin Mitchell-Turner and Hannah Donaghy 7EV

Full International Schools Award



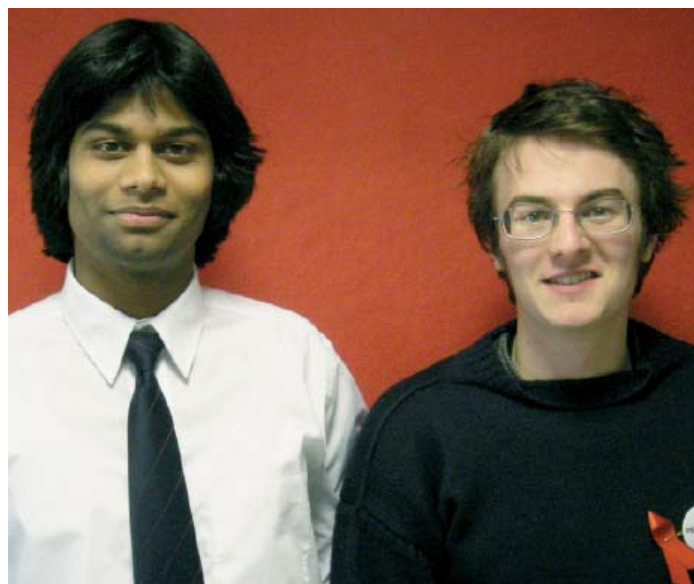
At the start of September we learned that the school has been awarded the DCSF International School Award, which is an accreditation scheme for curriculum-based international work in schools.

The scheme provides recognition for teachers and their schools working to instill a global dimension into the learning experience of all children and young people. It was awarded to Cardinal Newman because of all the superb visits, enrichment activities and curriculum opportunities provided to students by many departments across all areas of school life.

The award was presented to Mr Goldup (Director of Humanities Specialism) at a ceremony in London on October 8th by George Alagiah, the BBC newscaster. George has been presenting the Six O'clock News on BBC One since 2003. During his time with the BBC he has travelled the world as a leading foreign correspondent reporting from places like Rwanda, Iraq, Afghanistan and Sierra Leone and was the perfect 'Guest of Honour' for this event.

Debating Matters!

Congratulations go to John Mathew, Karen Thacker, Nicholas Devlin and Christopher Matus, winners of the Brighton and Hove qualifying round of the 'Debating Matters' competition. The competition, run by The Institute of Ideas, is fiercely competitive and the standard of debate extremely high. The judges, eminent local academics from the Universities of Sussex and Brighton, praised our students for the clarity of their arguments and for their skill in debate. The Cardinal Newman team now goes forward to the South East Regional Final at Canterbury Christ Church University next spring, where they will compete against some of the best debaters in the country. They go forward knowing that, thanks to the inspired leadership of team members Andrew Rhodes and John Mathew, we now have a reputation as being one of the hardest teams to beat, both at local and national levels. Their commitment to leading the development of debating is evident every Wednesday afternoon in the Sixth Form block where they can be found coaching younger students in the skills at which they have excelled. Their hard work should ensure that our reputation as a school where discussion and debate are flourishing continues to grow, and we hope that more students, particularly in Years 11 and 12 will come forward to take part in our success.



John Mathew and Nicholas Devlin following their success in the 'Debating Matters' competition.

The Geography Gameshow

On November 24th the Year 7 students watched Neal Nichols Jr. in the Geography Gameshow on his annual UK Tour from the United States. What an amazing guy! He told the students how he has made many fantastic journeys around the globe and has undertaken over 1300 landings and take-offs. He opened the show by drawing an amazing free-hand map of the world on the whiteboard and quizzed the students about various world locations.



By the end of the show the Year 7 students had a better knowledge of world locations and had participated in Neal's unique learning style.

The highlight of the event had to be the numerous students who volunteered their talents at the front of the audience to answer his questions in his 'competitions' to win medals, baseball cards and souvenirs of his travels from around the globe. Another brilliant Geography enrichment event!



The Eco Schools Green Flag Award



Last month following an assessment at the school, we are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the top environmental status of the 'Eco-Schools Green Flag'. Again this reflects our commitment to sustainability, the environment and the wider themes of the Humanities Specialism.

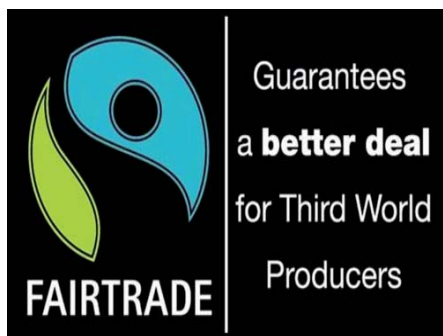
In particular the assessor was impressed with the fantastic workshops and events that had been organised in our 'One Planet-One Future' Year 7 and 8 enrichment activities last June, the Global Dimension Programme and the 'Connecting Classrooms' Project, the ongoing work of the school Eco-Group and the general move towards a greener school. We all know that we can still go a lot further in this area and already there are several projects up and running for the Spring Term 2009.

Mr. Jones and Mrs Pook are working on a 'Learning outside the Classroom' Project based around the history and architecture of the school and the biodiversity of its grounds. Working with a small group of students they are exploring the sustainable use of the school grounds

for future generations. Equally the Eco-Group are keen to promote more members and will be delivering assemblies, especially as we approach Fair Trade Fortnight.

Well done and thanks to all those people, especially Kim Jackson, the Brighton and Hove Environmental Education Officer, who have supported us and worked with us on the Green Flag Application and Action Plan.

Fair Trade Status



This month we had the fantastic news that through the Humanities Specialist Status we have earned Fair Trade School Status. This is a fantastic achievement which sits well with the ethos of the school and shows our commitment as an institution

to move forward in this area. We are the first school in the City to be awarded Fair Trade Status. This award recognises our commitment to developing a more just approach to our everyday habits and views. In order to achieve Fair Trade Status, we had to provide information about our lesson plans, resources and events in school which were then assessed by the Fair Trade Committee. It is a standard that is applied annually which means that we must not become complacent and should continue and develop our commitment to Fair Trade.

Primary Champion



Over the October half term Mr Goldup was awarded the position of Primary Geography Champion by the Geographical Association. This role involves raising the subject profile in the primary schools and the developing and showcasing of learning and teaching of Geography. Over the next few months he will be organising INSET activities for the Brighton and Hove primary school co-ordinators of Geography, developing and sharing best geographical practice in the Early Years to Key Stage 2 and organising a Primary Geography Conference for Brighton and Hove on Friday, 12th June 2009. This is in addition to his work for the Prince's Teaching Institute, the Royal Geographical Society and the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust.

The Geography Department goes from strength to strength



At the start of September the Geography Department under the leadership of Mr Goldup was awarded the Geographical Association Secondary Geography Quality Mark 'Centre of Excellence'. This is an outstanding achievement awarded to only eight Geography departments in the

country. This 'gold' standard recognises the excellent quality of leadership and learning and the contribution made by the Geography department in the wider community. This is through the provision of training opportunities for teachers from other schools and the regional dissemination of quality approaches to the teaching of Geography. For the past four years Miss Larkin and Mr Goldup have run the Brighton and Hove Geography Secondary Teacher's network, have organised several INSET Days and Conferences as well as teacher training twilight sessions. Their work has been commended by both the Royal Geographical Society and the Geographical Association at the highest levels.

Another Chartered Geographer!



Last week Miss Larkin (Lead Teacher: Geography) heard the fantastic news that she had been awarded the position of Chartered Geographer by the Royal Geographical Society for her outstanding work across the City. Most recently she organised a twilight training session

for Geography teachers, a Citywide Year 7 Geography enrichment fieldtrip and is currently working on the BBC News 'School Report' Project with Mr Marsh. In March 2008 she also heard that three of her Year 9 students - Elizabeth Killalea, Joseph Miller and Molly Skelton had won a top prize in the The Specialist Schools and Academies Trust competition 'A Date to Remember'. Congratulations to Miss Larkin on her success.