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November 11<sup>th</sup> is always a special day in the year when we remember the millions of men and women who have been killed and wounded in conflicts throughout the world.

But this year was particularly special at Rye Hills School. 1100 pupils from year 7 – 11 stood outside in complete silence to mark the 2 minute silence at 11am.

As the Union Jack fluttered, a pupil in year 9 played the Last Post on the bugle followed by Reveille.

It was a proud moment for all of us – and we are especially proud of our many ex-pupils who at this moment are risking their lives in Afghanistan.

Rye Hills pupils and staff are always extremely generous to charity. Our 2011 Poppy Appeal raised £210. Thank you



### Our Best Results Ever

Well done to last year's year 11 students. Many records were broken - including record numbers of students achieving 5 (or more) GCSEs at grade C or better including English and Mathematics (63%); 13% more than our previous best set in 2009/10. This significant achievement moves Rye Hills from 7<sup>th</sup> in the Local Authority to 4<sup>th</sup>. We have exceeded the Local Authority average, an achievement of which we are all very proud.

Our English and Mathematics results were also the best ever, with Mathematics results (A\*-C) increasing by 26% over 3 years to match the sustained high performance of English. 99% of students left Rye Hills with at least one qualification, a figure we are proud of but are aiming to make this 100% for the current cohort of year 11.

All students, regardless of ability or gender performed well last year, showing that we provide an inclusive curriculum to meet the needs of all students.

Rye Hills' results have increased year on year since 2007 and the staff and students are committed to ensuring this upward trend continues.

### National Citizens Award

Well done to the following year 11 pupils who gained a Safe in Tees Valley National Citizen Service Award over the summer break: Paige Nixon, Natalia Gibson, Craig Gainford, Tiffany Irwin, Freya Esplin, Chloe Esplin, Connor Cargon, Ian Patterson, Chantelle Rowland, Adam Thomas, Duncan White, Scarlett Drury and Macaulay Simpson.

Jake Croft, Jason Hunter, James Bowman, Hayley Linford, Matthew Turner, Haylea Petford, Rhiannon Lofthouse and Hayley Larkin who left Rye Hills last year all gained the award too. Chantelle Rowland, Craig Gainford and Connor Cargon were also nominated for an extra award.

www.safeinteesvalley.org



### Jeans for Genes

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October it was Jeans for Genes Day 2011. Pupils and staff donated 50p and wore non-uniform for the day with only one rule it had to include an item of denim clothing such as jeans, jacket, skirt, shorts etc...

We made a grand total of £463.73, all funds will go towards children and families with genetic disorders to provide respite care, expensive equipment and other facilities to improve quality of life.



Visit the website to find out more: www.jeansforgenesday.com

### Smiles Foundation

A group of 7 students raised £218.70 for The Smiles Foundation by taking part in a bag pack on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October in Tesco. The pupils were presented with certificates and a small gift by Smiles representative Rob Nightingale who said: "They were a credit to the school in the way they worked throughout the 4 hour session."



### CD's Wanted

The Smiles Foundation is collecting unwanted CDs (with 5 or more tracks) or DVDs. Each item must be original and in its box with its artwork and booklet where applicable. The discs must be free from damage although light scratches are acceptable.

If every student and member of staff brought in 1 item each year then Smiles would be able to recycle and receive £500+ per year. However the more we receive the more money we can raise. Staff and students should take the items to the box in the Wimbledon Office.

For more information about Smiles or to make a donation visit the website:

www.thesmilesfoundation.org



### 100% Attendance

At the beginning of autumn term the attendance department held an assembly to draw a raffle for pupils who have gained 100% attendance in the academic year 2010-2011. Pupils from years 8 to 11 had the opportunity to win prizes of an ipod or £20, £10 and £5 vouchers. Pupils get one entry into the prize draw for every term they gain 100% attendance, they get an extra ticket if they gain 100% attendance for all 3 terms. Well done to the 39 pupils who gained a gold award for 100% for the whole year, to the 17 pupils in Wimbledon, 11 pupils in Headingley, 22 pupils in Silverstone and 21 pupils in Twickenham who gained the silver award for gaining 100% for 2 terms, and to the 39 pupils in Wimbledon, 39 pupils in Headingley, 39 pupils in Silverstone and 53 pupils in Twickenham who gained the Bronze award for gaining 100% for 1 term.



### Transporter Bridge Charity Abseil

During the last academic year the School Council decided that they would like to organise a charity event in support of one of the school's chosen charities. After much discussion the decision was made that the event would be an abseil down the Transporter Bridge during its centenary year. The Head Boy Luke Melville and the Head Girl Annabel Davies got straight to work making telephone calls to Zoe's Place, the chosen charity and also to the UK Bungee Club to get the event up and running. The date was set at Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May and the recruitment for willing volunteers commenced.



Unfortunately due to high winds the initial date had to be cancelled so a new date of Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June was selected. 33 brave pupils and 14 brave staff took part in the successful event which was very well supported by parents, friends and family. Now all the sponsorship money has been collected the School Council are very pleased to announce that a total of £3002 has been raised for Zoe's Place Baby Hospice. The cheque was presented to Zoes Place on November 21<sup>st</sup> 2011. I'm sure you will agree that this is a fabulous achievement for an incredibly worthwhile cause.

### Neighbourhood Planning

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October a group of 18 pupils from the School and House Councils went on a trip into the local area to undertake a 'Community Mapping' exercise. The aim of the task was to get an understanding of the school's immediate location, called the West Dyke ward, and gather information about what the pupils like and dislike about their neighbourhood.



On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November Julian Feakes, Neighbourhood Planning Manager, came into school to do a follow up workshop with the pupils involved. The workshop provided our pupils with an opportunity to have their say about local issues and put forward some ideas about what they would like to see provided in the future. The information gathered will be taken into account when Redcar & Cleveland Council draws up a Neighbourhood Action Plan in 2012.

