THE Gazette article headline says it all! We are thrilled for our magnificent Class of 2009; they performed brilliantly in the summer examinations with 97% achieving 5 or more A*-C Grades and 79% did so with the magic combination of Maths and English. An amazing 49% were awarded 3 A*-A grades. We are so very proud of them all.

To have our school described as the ‘Sparkling Jewel in the Crown’ is immensely rewarding and is testament to all the hard work of the entire community.

At Hodgson, teachers, students, parents and governors all work together with a common purpose; quite simply to be the best we can be, to achieve and exceed expectations and to realise our true potential. The Hodgson family is stronger than ever with so much to celebrate. What a wonderful way to return from the summer holiday.

We succeed because we get the basics right; high standards and traditional values underpin all our work and provide the foundation of our continued improvement. An essential element of our identity is a uniform, which I firmly believe is worn with pride by our students. Please support the school by adhering to the uniform requirements as outlined in the Student Planner. School shoes should be black, without logos and not of a canvas or gym shoe material. Small but important matters such as these define a school with high standards and confidence.

We are very excited about the year ahead, particularly since we have secured funding to build a new Sports Hall. Plans have already been drawn and we are looking towards a completion date of August 2010. This new facility will significantly enhance our ability to offer a full range of activities in a state-of-the-art environment. This is fabulous news for all students and for the wider community.

I welcome all new students, parents and staff to the Hodgson family.

We have hit the ground running and we are embarking on another exciting, challenging and hugely successful year ahead.

Mr A. Nicholson Headteacher

Sparkling Jewel in Crown

Hodgson School continues to be the jewel in the Fylde’s GCSE crown with another year of sparkling results.

The Poulton school has maintained last year’s impressive standard of 97 per cent of students picking up five or more GCSE grades A*-C.

Pupil Karen Squires, 16, from Great Eccleston, shone picking up a whopping 11 A*s and one A. She said: “I’m still in shock, but I’m so happy. It’s such a relief.

I hardly slept at all with worrying, but I can’t wait to get to sixth form.”

Headteacher Tony Nicholson said: “I’m delighted for all the students who’ve worked hard to achieve these amazing results. They deserve great credit for their commitment and ambitions.

With so much talk of challenging times, it is so encouraging to see our young people show the confidence, intelligence and enterprise to achieve so highly.”

Blackpool Gazette – Friday 28 August 2009

HODGSON’S GOT TALENT

BY MRS GILBERT, DRAMA

AFTER four gruelling heats, 15 acts showcased their talents in this year’s Hodgson’s Got Talent. Among the impressive line-up, on the evening of Thursday 17th September, were a cheerleading team and a whole host of dancers and singers.

Y11 dancers Natalie Pollard and Polly Thompson, who were overall winners in 2008’s competition, defended their title with an extremely energetic routine they had choreographed themselves. They were up against stiff opposition from Lucy Fallon and Lucy Willman, of Y9, whose version of the classic track ‘Hallelujah’ had been a firm favourite during the heats.Y10 student Tony Kwok had also emerged as a talented singer and musician and was also destined to do well. Hannah Almond’s dance was full of grace and was beautiful to behold. The Year 11 band, headed by Tom McCloud, was highly professional and the haunting singing voice of Molly Fenton, of 10D, also made her a likely contender.

The judging panel included representatives from Christie’s Cancer Care in Manchester and former Maths teacher Carolyn Sharpe, who produced Grease at Hodgson before retiring two years ago. All proceeds raised on the night through ticket sales were being donated to Christie’s.

All the acts that performed could have been worthy winners: the judges’ job to choose an overall winner was certainly a hard one. But Lorna Daniels was crowned champion after singing her own interpretation of the Whitney Houston classic I Will Always Love You. Hannah Almond, Natalie Pollard and Polly Thompson carried away trophies for dancing and Tom McCloud for singing.

* The school will stage a fundraiser for Marie Curie Cancer Care on Friday 2nd October. Students must wear normal school uniform but can wear a yellow accessory for example a belt, tie, scarf or gloves etc. All money raised will go towards supporting Blackpool Gazette News Editor Jon Rhodes’ attempt to raise £3,000 for Marie Curie by running the New York Marathon in November.

Angelic-voiced singers Lucy Willman and Lucy Fallon
HODGSON’S fifth Summer School was run from Wednesday 22nd to Friday 31st July. This year’s theme was space, and included a trip to the Jodrell Bank Observatory for Astrophysics in Manchester and a talk by the Blackpool and District Astronomic Society.

The Summer School coincided with the 40th anniversary of the first moon landings by astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. Around 50 Gifted and Talented students from Years 7 and 8 attended. Y11 mentors led their groups around a wide range of activities, which include making model aliens and finding out about rockets. The remains of the moon buggies that were made with art teacher Miss Ward have been on display in the Learning Centre, along with posters and display work that was produced about rockets.

Charlotte Spindler, 8H, said: “Summer School was really fun. I enjoyed the visit to Jodrell Bank and making animations.”

Aimee Collins, 7M, added: “My favourite part of Summer School was drama, when my group acted out a dance off on the moon with Michael Jackson and Neil Armstrong! I loved Summer School and it has helped me a lot to settle into my new school.”

We would like to thank Mrs Wade for planning the Summer School and making it extra special, and a big thanks to all of the teachers who gave up their time to help.

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NEW school meal menus have been unveiled this month. These are in line with national guidelines, in which school caterers must meet 14 nutrition-based standards. The biggest change has been made to menus for the Hot Pot Dining Room. A range of four nutritious Meal Deals are on offer daily, which incorporates a main course and a dessert or fruit-based drink for £2.10.

The food served in the Express Diner at breakfast, break and lunchtimes remains the same as last year.

The new menus will be listed on Hodgson’s website www.hodgson.lancs.sch.uk soon. Please note that the website is currently undergoing an overhaul so some areas can not be viewed at present.

Bradley Hudson, 8H, and Natasha Thornton, 11H, were overall winners of the school canteen’s Great Summer Giveaway. Scratch cards were given out with school meals. Those that revealed a star were put into a prize draw, and Bradley and Natasha won ipod vouchers.

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A CHEQUE for £1,000 was awarded to the Save the Children charity at the annual Student BBQ in July. The money had been raised by the Christmas Tree Bauble Appeal in 2008.

Jackie Kenyon, who accepted the cheque on behalf of Save the Children, said at the presentation: “Thank you so much. The fantastic amount of money raised demonstrates the hard work and commitment you put into this as a school. Your money will help thousands of children around the world. Thank you for supporting the Children again.”

**Here’s how Hodgson’s £1,000 could be spent:**
- Buying 238 mosquito nets to protect children at risk from malaria
- Providing 38 malnourished children with a month’s supply of micronutrient peanut butter
- Vaccinating 200 children against childhood diseases
- Buying 200 water filters to help provide clean water for children and their families

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**Nutritional Meals**

**Key at Hodgson**

**Vacanza Italiano!**

**Spaces are still available for an eight-week short course on Holiday Italian. The classes will begin at Hodgson on Wednesday 7th October, 7pm-9pm. Call course organiser Myerscough College on 01995 642128 to enrol or for further details.**

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**Learning Resource Centre Autumn Update**

By Mrs C Baran, LRC Officer

As we start the new academic year, the LRC is buzzing. Lots of Hodgson’s new Y7 students have discovered the LRC and are making good use of the facility.

Here a couple of our volunteer LRC Student Assistants give updates on what’s happening in the LRC. Gemma Collins, of form 9D, said: “The LRC Student Assistants ran competitions for students during the European Day of Languages (Wednesday 23rd September) and put together a display of the wonderful work created in lessons on this themed day.”

Jack Ball, of 9M, reported: “The LRC has recently purchased a Nintendo DS for students to play learning games, and this is proving to be very popular. We are also about to purchase some educational puzzle games for students to play at recreational times, so by the time you are reading this they should be available to book a go on.”

There’s a lot happening in the LRC. Why not come along and enjoy the facilities the LRC has to offer!
Heading Up the School

A NEW school year always heralds a new team of Head and Deputy Boys and Girls. Here they introduce themselves and outline their plans for the forthcoming year.

Head Girl - Polly Thompson, 11R
I feel very proud to be given this role - it is a good opportunity to have more responsibility in the school during my last year at Hodgson. Firstly, as head girl, I want to make sure that Hodgson stays as one of the best schools in Lancashire. I will be looking out for any signs of bad behaviour and will try to voice students’ ideas to the Student Council and teachers. I will also be making sure that every student is aware of after-school activities and homework clubs; so that they can work and meet new people of different ages and their talents can be recognised.

Head Boy - Alex Halliday, 11W
I look forward to working with both students and teachers to build upon the success of the school so far! I will ensure that, with your help and cooperation, we achieve the best working environment, whilst enjoying our every day school life together.

Deputy Head Boy - Daniel Moore, 11C
I’m looking forward to this year at Hodgson because there’s lots of exciting events coming up within school. I’m looking forward to taking part in them. It is great to be able to represent Hodgson at this level and I want to make sure it stays a great school.

Deputy Head Girl - Becky Green, 11D
I’m very excited to be working with a great team this year as Deputy Head Girl and look forward to making positive changes to the school to make it even better. KS4 girls, the first thing I want to do is improve the toilet cubicles!

Congratulations to the following Y11 students for being selected as Senior Prefects:

HODGSON School is to participate in the Wyre and Fylde Fairtrade School Festival on Thursday 8th October, National Poetry Day will be marked at Hodgson. This year’s theme is ‘Heroes and Heroines’, and lots of exciting events are planned by the English Department. This includes a ticket-only event for students to watch poetry readings by members of staff. See Mrs Tingle for further details or tickets.

Because Fairtrade helps young people understand how their actions can affect people in the wider world.

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Hodgson School’s 2009 GCSE Results

Hodgson School would like to congratulate all of the following Year 11 students (Class of 2008/09) for achieving the best ever set of GCSE results in the school’s history. Well done!

**Passes A*-G**

16 Passes: S Denton, M Fox, K Gildert, L Hindle, A Shaw.


13.5 Passes: D Beddows, C Forsyth, K Squarrell.


12.5 Passes: J Lau, K Lloyd.


11 Passes: L Beardmore, S Boland, C Conway, S Crossdale, T Drury, T Fulton, M Hodkin, E Hough, R Kanurich, J Manning, P Mason, S Murphy, T Rainskill.


Nine Passes: O Booth, S Boyd, B Brock, C Fleming, S Richardson, S Whistle.


Seven Passes: J Rogerson, A Sarjantson.

Six Passes: G Beresford, C Miller, S Rawlinson-Price.


Four Passes: G Stuteley.

Three Passes: L Hainsworth.