

# School choir hits shows' high notes

Tettenhall College offers pupils outstanding opportunities beyond the classroom, with sports, charity work, exciting trips and varied extra-curricular activities.

The school is particularly proud of its performing arts activities and puts on spectacular, full-scale musical theatre productions in its own historic theatre each year.

Choir member Kate Woodman triumphed at Chadsmoor Music Festival, winning the 10 and under and 12 and under girls' solo set piece. Kate, who lives in Bridgnorth, sang two pieces, 'The Crocodile' and 'Bessie the Black Cat'. She enjoys singing and acting and the school is proud to help her develop her talent.

Tettenhall College director of music Ian Wass, who leads the choir, said: "Our musical offering gives pupils the chance to develop their talent, have fun and enjoy some truly unique and memorable experiences."

Mr Wass, who was trained as a chorister, sang with the British Youth Choir and York Minster Choir and has worked as a tutor with the Royal School of Church Music.

Members of the choir frequently support professional shows at the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton. In 1997, the school was asked to provide children for the national tour of 'Joseph', a Bill Kenwright production, when it came to the theatre. Mr Kenwright's company is one of the leading musical companies in England.



Chorister Kate Woodman won at Chadsmoor Music Festival

Tettenhall College pupils have since been invited back time and time again and have now provided the children for 20 shows (almost 300 performances), including Whistle Down the Wind, Scrooge, Doctor Doolittle, Evita, Jesus Christ Superstar, Hello Dolly and nine productions of Joseph.

Mr Wass said: "For the children to work with professional actors and singers performing in front of very big audiences is a great experience – not only from having to work at the very highest levels of performance, but also being part of the very close teamwork which exists between actors, production team and stage crew."

The choir's activities are just some of the many opportunities available to children at Tettenhall College.



It was party time as visitors enjoyed a Christmas get-together at the academy

# Visitors enjoy festive party

**STAFFORDSHIRE University Academy opened its doors to welcome residents from The Grange and The Heathers nursing homes to enjoy a Christmas get together with the sixth form students.**

Guests enjoyed a buffet, bin-

go and tombola along with a couple of Christmas songs from Connor Richards, a Year 13 student.

This is the second year that the event has taken place and all of the visitors shared their delight in being able to attend and it is something that will grow year on year. The college is really looking forward to run-

ning the event again next December.

Head of sixth form Thomas Light said: "We love to invite members of the community to join our students and celebrate Christmas with us."

"It is a pleasure to see both students and guests enjoying themselves and is a really important community event held at the academy."

# A mission for college



Some of the winners at the awards

Walsall's Adult and Community College (WACC) have a mission, to help the Black Country region regain its mojo.

The college has spent the last five years developing new and exciting opportunities for young people who have previously struggled with education. It is taking on the challenges in the region and helping to deliver the priorities set by bodies such as the Black Country Chamber of Commerce and the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to improve the skills levels and work readiness of young people.

As well as offering 'OFSTED outstanding' adult and community education, WACC is now offering young people, who are far away from the jobs market, hope and a realistic chance to get on track to a real job.

WACC specialises in taking on the challenges that other colleges pass by and its traineeships and apprenticeships for 16-24 year olds are a fantastic opportunity for those young people for whom, sixth form education and other colleges have not seemed the right option.

Last autumn WACC held its awards ceremony at 'the Crossing at St Paul's' in Walsall town centre. The awards celebrate the amazing personal and academic progress and achievement made by WACC learners over the past year.



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