

# STUDY LINKS NEWSLETTER



## ISSUE 12: OCTOBER 2011 TRICK OR TREAT?

HALLOWEEN is celebrated on October 31st and has been for many centuries. It is believed that Halloween originates from the Gaelic harvest festival Samhain which means 'summer's end'. Samhain was celebrated over a few days and parts of the festival were to used commemorate the dead. People dressed in white costumes with darkened faces to copy or placate the spirits. People also carved faces in turnips and placed them on their window-sills to scare away evil spirits. The carving tradition was eventually taken over to America by immigrants in the 19th century where people used the more readily available pumpkin for their carvings. The use of the pumpkin for the tradition of carving 'Jack-O-Lanterns' has survived until today.



A traditional carved turnip

During the Samhain festival, fires would be lit to burn the bones of the animals which had just been slaughtered. Often two fires would be lit and people would walk with their animals between the two as a cleansing ritual. In Scotland children would go from door to door 'guising' (meaning dressed in disguise) and provide entertainment in return for food or money. This practice was also common in England and was known as 'souling'. Poor people would go around the houses and ask for food in return for prayers for the dead on Hallowmas (November 1st).

In the 21st century children often dress up in ghost, witch, monster or skeleton costumes for the evening as they visit their neighbours' homes and ask the question 'trick or treat?'. If the neighbour replies "treat", the children are given some sweets, but if the neighbour replies "trick", the children play a mischievous trick on their neighbour!



### PUMPKIN COMPETITION:

Send your creative carved pumpkin photographs to [office@studylinks.co.uk](mailto:office@studylinks.co.uk). The winner will be announced in the next issue of the Study Links Newsletter.

## HOMESTAY RECRUITMENT!

STUDY Links is hoping to recruit some brilliant new homestay families in Lancashire, West Yorkshire, North Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Please recommend your friends and family to us if you think they would be suitable hosts for students.

Email [office@studylinks.co.uk](mailto:office@studylinks.co.uk) or ring the office on 01274 679710 and we will send out some information and then arrange a home visit.



## CHINESE SOCIAL MEDIA

CHINESE speaking students, parents and agents don't forget that you can now follow Study Links International on the Chinese social media page renren.com. Find us at <http://xiaoze.renren.com/xiaoze/236830/thread>.



## THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC!

JENNA from the Study Links team spends her spare time singing in the alto section of the Yorkshire Philharmonic Choir. She joined the choir in January 2010 after moving to the Wakefield area. 'I've always played the piano and often accompanied the choir at school, but I'd never sang in a choir myself. Now that I do, I love the team atmosphere and have made some great friends. We sing some really challenging pieces which I have to work hard at, but the results always make the effort worth it. We are currently rehearsing for a concert at Wakefield Cathedral on Saturday 29th October. We will be singing Mozart's Mass in C Minor and Bach's Magnificat.' If you would like more information about upcoming performances, how to get tickets or joining the choir have a look at the website [www.yorksphilchoir.co.uk](http://www.yorksphilchoir.co.uk).



**YORKSHIRE  
PHILHARMONIC  
CHOIR**

incorporating Yorkshire Chamber Choir

## IYC 2011

THE International Year of Chemistry continues into its tenth month. The highlight in the UK this month is 'Magic, Folk Medicine, Drugs and Chemistry' which will be held on October 26th at Imperial College London. You will learn about how chemistry has helped create medicine which has dramatically increased life expectancy over the last 100 years. There are many events in Hong Kong this month as Hong Kong University celebrates Chemistry Week 2011. Go to [www.chemistry2011.org](http://www.chemistry2011.org) for more information about what's on.



International Year of  
**CHEMISTRY**  
2011

## SEPTEMBER'S SLI STAR

THE Study Links Star Pupil for August is Karyna Balabatko who is in the Sixth Form at Queen Ethelburga's College. Karyna has taken on various roles within the school and enjoys participating in lots of events. We asked Karyna's Head of House, Mrs



Gamble, about her contribution to life at Queen Ethelburga's.

'Karyna is indeed one of our star girls in house and always wears a smile and helpful attitude.

She holds the title of Deputy Head Girl of Faculty at the school and is also Head Prefect in the boarding house. She has just completed her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. Last Valentine's Day she delighted everyone with her guitar playing and singing in front of a large audience. In the House she is always willing to help organise events and is a shining example to her peers.'

The staff at Study Links are really proud of Karyna and hope that she continues to make the most of her experience at school in the UK for the rest of the year. Well done Karyna! All SLI Stars receive a present and a card in the post to say well done for being so fantastic! We hope you like them.

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