



## A HEALTHY RESULT

Kieran Edwards and Evan Francis received the Healthy Schools Award on behalf of the Academy on Friday 1st July.

They enjoyed a delicious - and healthy - lunch and a performance of 'Hello Goodbye' by The Milestone School at the Healthy Schools event at Oakwood House, Maidstone. Olympian and six times World Kayak Champion Anna Hemmings MBE delivered a motivational speech and presented the award.

## TALENT BLOOMS AT FLOWER FESTIVAL

The Academy's five schools inspired talented students Francesca Diccio and Alana Telford to produce a stunning floral display for the Harty Church Flower Festival in July.

Says Francesca, of Abbey School: "We took each school's colour and used it to inspire a single piece. Together, they show five individual schools making up one Academy." Alana, of Shurland School, adds: "We had to buy some flowers, but most of the arrangements came from the Academy grounds."

Students from the Hair and Beauty Course also attended, offering manicures and nail art. School Heads were delighted at the chance to support Harty Church and are looking forward to further association.



## TOP MARKS FOR ENTERPRISE

Congratulations to Ms McLaughlan, who was crowned Enterprise Teacher of the Year - with Ms Wood, Ms Butler and Ms Brock all winning Highly Recommended citations - at the Enabling Enterprise celebration event in May. The Academy's BITE students were also applauded for their achievements by the high-powered panel chaired by David Bell, Permanent Secretary at the Department for Education.

Other panel members included Brett Wigdortz, founder and CEO of Teachfirst, John Fairhurst, President of the Association of School and College Leaders, Honor Wilson-Fletcher, CEO of the Aldridge Foundation, and Alistair Wilson CEO of the School for Social Entrepreneurs.

## ANOTHER EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR ACADEMY

For the second year running the Academy has collected the Princess Diana Excellence Award. The government-supported tribute, one of the highest accolades for students aged between 11 and 18, recognises community activity, student voice, anti bullying and anti racism work.

Over the past 22 months Academy students have cleaned streets around the school, cleared a canal section in Sheerness, taught ICT to over 50s, helped design a play area at Barton's Point and joined in creating a map of the island from thousands of photographs at Sheerness railway station. The award continues the Isle of Sheppey's great record - with over 200 Princess Diana Award holders it has more than anywhere else in Britain.

## EARLY WELCOME FOR YEAR 6 PUPILS

Unique in Swale, the Academy offers Year 6 pupils a flying start with induction during the last three weeks of term 6, helping them settle in earlier with less concern about joining secondary school - another link between local primaries and the Academy to improve students' learning experience.



## QUALIFIED TO BEAT THE BULLIES

18 Academy students are now qualified to carry out anti-bullying activities.

They spent an intensive two days training to become Mentors in the Resync programme, in which young people help other young people deal with bullying problems.

The Resync trainers were so impressed with the results they would like to use the Academy as a case study. The follow-up work will begin after Easter when the new Mentors, who come from all sections of the Academy, are due to put their training into practice by working alongside our Kent Safe Schools trained mentors.



## EARLY SIGNS OF ENTERPRISE

The silent jigsaw, Giant Jenga and bridge and tower building - just a few of the challenges our Enterprise team have been handing out at local primary schools.

Teaching staff and Year 7 Enterprise Leaders have been introducing pupils to enterprise skills - and testing their creative thinking - as part of the transition programme.

Pupils worked in teams using verbal and non verbal communication skills and adopted a 'can do' attitude to try new things and solve the problems. They earned stickers for showing initiative, and proudly accepted certificates of achievement at the end of each workshop.

## ACCLAIM FOR ART AND TECHNOLOGY

Kristian Slade won the overall 'Outstanding' award for his A level Product Design work in July's annual Art and Technology Exhibition.

Supported by The Isle of Sheppey Rotary Club for the past thirteen years, the exhibition rewards exceptional creative work. This year's sponsors included O'Meara's Butchers, Premier Timber, Halfway Post Office, G&P Machine Shop and Chalkwell Coach Hire.

Executive Headteacher David Rahman, Rotary Club President Christine Logue and Mayor of Swale Ben Stokes presented awards to students from Years 9 to 13 for work in Fine Art, Graphic Products, Resistant Materials, Food & Nutrition and Product Design.

## MASTER CLASSES IN ADVANCE

From September new Year 6 students will have the opportunity to bolster their English and Maths skills in advance of their arrival.

The first two weeks will comprise Master Classes on both East and West Sites. These innovative and fun sessions are designed to support our partner schools' preparations for their coming exams.

Other subjects are planned and we hope this will become a long academic partnership to add to the successful transition programme.

## JOIN THE CLUB - OR START ONE

There are over 30 separate activities on offer throughout the week, at lunchtime and after school. They include inventive interests such as Free Running, Newspaper Writing and Hair and Beauty, as well as more traditional sporting, performing arts and homework clubs.

This will develop over the coming year, but only with your support. If you have any ideas for a club, or find it difficult to stay for an activity but would like to, maybe we can help - just see your Pastoral team.

### 2011/ 2012 TERM DATES

#### TERM 1

TERM STARTS  
Thursday 1 September 2011

TERM FINISHES  
Friday 21 October 2011

STAFF TRAINING DAYS  
Thursday 1 September 2011  
Friday 2 September 2011

#### TERM 2

TERM STARTS  
Monday 31 October 2011

TERM FINISHES  
Friday 16 December 2011

STAFF TRAINING DAY  
Monday 28 November 2011

#### TERM 3

TERM STARTS  
Wednesday 4 January 2012

TERM FINISHES  
Friday 10 February 2012

STAFF TRAINING DAY  
Monday 16 January 2012

#### TERM 4

TERM STARTS  
Monday 20 February 2012

TERM FINISHES  
Friday 30 March 2012

#### TERM 5

TERM STARTS  
Monday 16 April 2012

TERM FINISHES  
Friday 1 June 2012

STAFF TRAINING DAY  
Monday 16 April 2012

#### TERM 6

TERM STARTS  
Monday 11 June 2012

TERM FINISHES  
Friday 20th July 2012



## BUILDING UP NICELY

Construction of two new Academy sites started early in May, and the scene from the first-floor viewing points shows steady progress on both. The East site sports hall framework is already laid out, and piling rigs are working continuously throughout the day on the deep foundations for the West site.

Although completion seems far away some benefits are already appearing. From September the East site will have a new car park opposite Reception, with a one-way system making vehicle access easier at the start and end of each day. On the West site the Beckley Road and canal boundaries are now fenced. Combined with a new CCTV system, this creates a safer environment for everyone. And we'll see limitations on sports space eased with the new multi-use games area on the West site, scheduled for completion by Christmas.

## MR O'K IS COUNTY CHAMPION

After winning the Swale Teacher of the Year award, Eoghain O'Keefe went one better and picked up the Kent Teacher of the Year prize in May.

Eoghain's accolade is richly deserved, as students motivated by his quirky and original approach to Science all agree. So what next - a spot in Jamie Oliver's Dream School? ...





THE ISLE OF SHEPPEY  
ACADEMY

# ASPIRE

## Term 5/6 Newsletter 2011



## THE PRINCIPAL DESIGNATE WRITES .....



I am delighted to be asked to contribute to this newsletter. It provides a golden opportunity to publically thank the Governors, the Chairman, Baroness Floella Benjamin, current Vice Chair, Mr Ralph Mainard, Dulwich College, our lead sponsor, Kent County Council and the Canterbury Diocese for giving me the opportunity to lead the Isle of Sheppey Academy at such a crucial stage in its development. I commit to working hard to achieve the highest standards of education for all students.

### The future

The future for the Isle looks bright. The wind farm development, coupled with the growth of logistics, transport and distribution centres when combined with our £54m new build makes the Academy an exciting place to be. Our students have every incentive to become well qualified and develop the necessary interpersonal skills to secure the jobs generated by these new business opportunities. I have been informed all teaching posts are fully staffed for September with an exciting crop of new teachers. They will be supported by experienced and enthusiastic new leaders who wish to make a difference to the lives of every student. I am eager to get going!

### How did education make a difference to my life?

I was born in County Durham and started life in a council house in Peterlee, a new town, attending a comprehensive school that had never sent a student to a Russell group University. As a boy I liked football and cricket. I enjoyed playing for my school and club teams. My first ever primary school report recorded history as my best subject. How true this was. Two inspirational teachers at my secondary school further shaped my love for history. They had a profound influence. In 1983 I left Sheffield University with a History degree immediately embarking upon a teaching career spanning the Derbyshire dales, Durham steelworks and Kentish grammar and high schools. Teachers really do influence lives!

As a youngster I realised the miner's strikes in the north east during the late 1970's and 1980's were borne out of desperation. Many students who did not make the most of their talents at school suffered bouts of unemployment, low income and limited opportunities as one by one the pits closed and new local factories like Smith's crisps, JCB earth movers and Nissan cars at Sunderland demanded highly qualified and skilled people. Education became the passport to not only a good job, but also it opened up doors to new experiences denied to my parents and friends. Education developed new ideas and thoughts. I enjoyed school as a pupil as it provided many opportunities, but to be a teacher is hugely satisfying. Teaching allows you to make a difference to young people by endowing them with the attributes to become natural leaders, team players and contributors to a community. It also produces motivators on the sports field, talent in the theatre, musical prowess, singers, writers and those who paint, design and make the products which brighten our lives.

I hope every Academy students goes on to maximise their talents because of the enthusiasm and love of learning demonstrated by their teachers.

### New Year 7

I must pay tribute to the new Year 7 and their parents who attended the recent Year 7 launch evening for Brabazon and Sheerness schools. Likewise, it was goods to see so many Abbey, Harty and Shurland parents for their respective New Year 7 evening. The class of 2011 seem a fine bunch of students. I aim for us all to work together as parents and staff for the benefit of the young people at the Academy. By developing confidence, self belief and a work ethic ambitions and dreams can be realised. I look forward to meeting all the students and handing out certificates, prizes and huge amounts of encouragement over the next 7 years.

## THE PRINCIPAL DESIGNATE WRITES ..... (CONTINUED)

### Students in Years 8 -11

It was a real pleasure to meet so many existing Academy students who assisted with the new Year 7 evening. The kindness they showed and the pride displayed in supporting the Academy's vision was pleasing to see. I could see the potential each person has for a successful future due to, in no small part, confident interpersonal skills in relating to new people.

### Sixth Form

I wish Year 11 good luck with their GCSE results and look forward to seeing many of you back in the Sixth Form where the Academy has a track record of A Level and BTEC achievement. Likewise, I hope Year 12 and 13 enjoy AS and full A Level success and secure the training, jobs or university placements which take their lives to new heights. I will be present at the Academy late morning on GCSE and A Level examination result days. I will be willing to talk to any student or parent about how we can work together to go the extra mile to maximise the chances of success in the Sixth Form.

### What are the new Principal's standards?

Put simple I will require students to work hard. This means completing all classwork and homework to the highest standard possible. Students will be expected to listen, follow instructions and to know the difference between right and wrong. Teachers will be asked to set challenging, interesting tasks and to show enthusiasm. Politeness, respect and friendliness will be in abundance. There will be no nonsense. Manners, attendance, punctuality and the standards of written work expected from every student will be high. I seek to open the door of opportunity to the Isle of Academy students. Ultimately, the success of each student will depend upon individual motivation and how well parents and teachers work together. In September I look forward to dropping into lessons, touring the five mini schools and working with students, staff, parents and the Island community.

DAVID DAY  
PRINCIPAL DESIGNATE JULY 2011



## TAKING CAREERS MESSAGE TO PRIMARY SCHOOL

Careers took centre stage on Thursday 19 May as our Year 12 Business and Administration (Office Skills) group starred in an event for Year 6 students at Halfway Houses Primary School.

Amie Elmes, Roxanne Butcher, Callum Roberts, Hayley Agnew, Halley Hills and Siobhan Meloy promoted vocational training to a younger audience.

The businesslike students presented their skills and knowledge covering communication, management and work alongside others in a business environment.

Then came a quiz, an office equipment demonstration and questions and answers. The young audience was particularly interested in a 1965 portable typewriter, complete with inked ribbon and carbon paper - once state of the art, now a museum piece. Students from the Motor Vehicle Course inspired budding mechanics while Health and Social Care students explained work in the care industry. The event will feature in participating students' NVO Level 2 Business and Administration portfolio.

## APPRENTICES TOUR THE HOUSE



Sheerness County Councillor Ken Pugh and Sheppey MP Gordon Henderson treated Paige Lendon and Kyle Mullins to an unforgettable day in June, when they entertained the Academy Apprentice winners to a guided tour of House of Commons and lunch on the famous terrace.

The visit, a reward for the students' hard work and enterprise, started with a car journey to Sittingbourne station followed by a train trip to London. In true enterprising fashion Paige and Kyle, who were accompanied by Miss Butler, took the opportunity to ask Ken about his business life and council duties.

On their arrival at the Commons Gordon Henderson greeted the party and launched them on an access-all-areas tour. The Academy business brains delved into the history of the House and plied their guide with testing questions about the political system, before settling down to a splendid lunch overlooking the Thames. No news yet on whether the budding entrepreneurs might now prefer politics to a business career.

## PUSHING PEDALS FOR PUBLICITY

Academy cyclists joined local primary school students in a bike ride to publicise the official opening of the Bartons Point Cycle Path. The new track aims to provide a safe and healthy route for youngsters.



# A FIRST FOR ROXANNE

Roxanne Gray has become the first Academy student to win a university place with an NVQ.

Following her success in Level 3 Business and Administration Roxanne will now study the same subject at Greenwich University.

NVQs are normally work-related rather than academic qualifications, and Roxanne's impressive result is the equivalent of two A Levels at A to C grade. Over the past year she has worked for the Academy Estates Manager on the West Site to complete her portfolio.

## LANGUAGE LEADERS SHOW THEIR SKILLS

Pupils at local primary schools have benefited from our Foreign Language Leaders' abilities.

A group of Years 9, 10 and 11 took this scheme as their elective last September, meeting every Friday (sometimes more) to learn teaching skills. Showing dedication, responsibility and maturity they became more confident in their languages and as leaders, and eventually led four German and French lessons, here at the Academy and at Halfway Primary and Richmond schools.

The response was so positive they've been invited back to take an extra lesson at Halfway this term. All succeeded in the scheme and will receive their formal certificates soon.



# ROBOTS BATTLE IT OUT

The action was fierce, fast and furious at Chatham Maritime during the ROBOT WARS event. The IoSA team of Calvin Campbell, Dean Ford, Juran Shoebridge, Luke Day and driver Rowan Bliss put in a sterling performance to secure second place.



# A WEEK OF NEW SPORTS

Exciting new games grabbed the attention in the Lloyds TSB National School Sports Week in June. Students tried vortexes, frisbees, free running and capture-the-flag contests as part of a scheme to encourage participation in unconventional sports.

But tradition dies hard, and cricket and football proved most popular. Climax of the week was the annual staff vs sixth form football match. The students pulled off their customary victory, but teachers took consolation from the narrow 2-0 margin.

Sports Week demonstrates how positive attitudes can influence all aspects of life. After this year's success, even more activities are planned for 2012.



# STUDENTS REACH DIZZY HEIGHTS

Motor Mechanics students faced vertiginous climbs, balancing acts 40 feet up and a 'leap of faith' on to a trapeze on their trip to the Arethusa Venture Centre.

The aim was to build self esteem, develop communication skills, show trust and teamwork, and break through personal barriers via a series of testing challenges.

Teams of four tackled the dizzying Jacob's Ladder with its wire-hung wooden rungs spaced ever wider as they climbed higher. The H frame combined balancing on a horizontal beam, walking on ropes and swinging on monkey bars. Then there was that leap of faith - a jump into space from a raised wooden platform to reach a hovering trapeze.

Despite fear of heights, obstacle-strewn progress and swaying structures, our intrepid students pushed themselves beyond their supposed limits and conquered the tasks. Not only did they survive the experience and learn about working together to overcome fears - they had a lot of laughs too.





## ACADEMY WINS ENTERPRISE AWARD

Enterprise is a vital ingredient in Academy activity - and it's been recognised by a major award .

Our very own shop on Sheerness High Street brought students and the community into close contact for six weeks leading up to Christmas. Our Junior Apprentice contest regularly forges strong links with the Isle's businesses. OFSTED also recently verified the strength of enterprise learning at the Academy.

But the greatest honour so far came when Enabling Enterprise, the organisation dedicated to encouraging skills, aspirations and experience, named us as School of the Year for Enterprise Learning.

Congratulations all round for a well deserved triumph.



## STORY BEHIND THE HONOURS SYSTEM

The Cabinet Office's Barbara Walsh visited Abbey School recently to explain the UK Honours System. She brought along examples of awards and spoke to members of the Abbey School Student Leadership Team in support of their work in Citizenship.

# FILM MAKERS SWELL CHARITY FUND

The Academy raised over £1500 for the Paul Trigwell Memorial Fund with a non-uniform day - and many students and staff raised more in the annual island run.

Our media team was on hand to capture the event ...

"The brief was to make a community media film for the Edexcel BTEC National Diploma in Creative Media Production," writes Karen Gray.

We researched similar productions, did health and safety and risk assessments, wrote the script, consulted Fund Committee members and planned the logistics - which naturally included a fast-food stop (you can't film without breakfast).

On the day we filmed the 10- and 2-mile events using camcorders and digital SLRs. Our earliest risers arrived at misty Shellness at 7.45 am to snap away at participants clad in a mix of serious sportswear and fancy dress. Dancers, a whale trainer and clowns rubbed shoulders with Mr Scott's superb Ninja Turtle.

From Shellness we rushed to Warden Bay where the clouds cleared - causing a change of settings as our positions were facing the sun.

We also filmed at Minster Cliffs, The Leas, Sheppey Yacht Club and Beachfields Finish Line.

We finished the DVD in time for the Presentation Evening on June 10, working extra hours to meet the deadline. A taste of the real world, there ...

Best of all, we achieved good grades, the audience liked the film, and we raised over £100 for the charity. We're already looking forward to next year's production."



## UNDER 19s REACH KENT CUP SEMIS

The Under 19s met the unexpected when bad weather meant their Kent Cup quarter final against Harvey Grammar became an indoor six-a-side match. The Academy six adapted superbly, however, and won a close game in the Harvey sports hall.

After losing the toss, the Academy reached 112 with Aaron Walker and young Ben Pullen batting confidently. The bigger Harvey boys started their innings imperiously but once captain Kevin Cunningham had removed the openers they gradually capitulated for 104.

In the next round Rochester Mathematical School dashed our Final hopes in a pulsating match.

Kevin Cunningham bowled Rochester's Kent opener for a duck, and Ben Pullen picked up three wickets in two overs as the home team reached 139 in 30 overs.

Then the Rochester bowlers, boasting several county players, reduced the Academy to 72 for 7, despite Aaron Walker's battling 29. But Elliot McEntire (45) and Ben Pullen brought victory within sight, until eventually falling just 16 runs short.

The academy players showed tremendous character against powerful, often older opponents. Kent School Cricket Association observers were so impressed they invited the Academy to play in next year's Kent Cricket League, alongside the best cricketing schools in the county.