

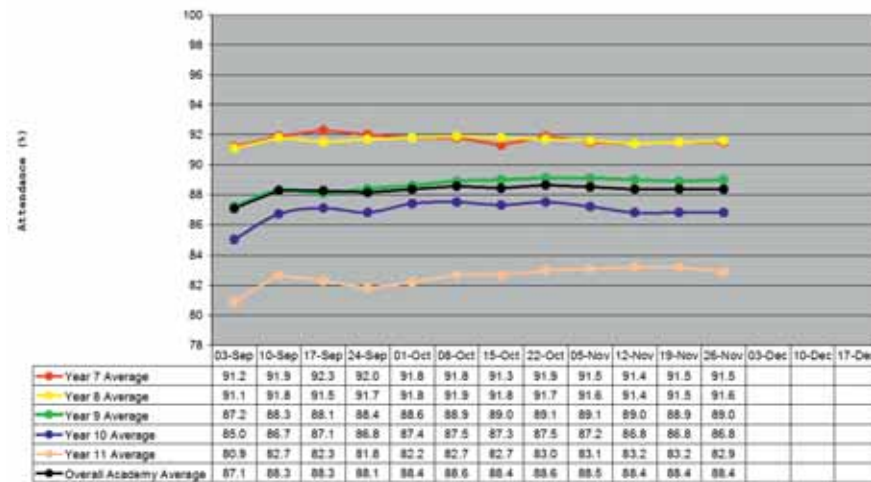
GOOD ATTENDANCE = GOOD RESULTS

Students who turn up most get the best exam results - the figures prove it.

85% of Year 11 students who took fewer than seven days off in a year achieved GCSEs in English and Maths. But it's a different picture for students whose attendance rate fell below 90%. Only 17% of these achieved five GCSE A*-C grades including English and Maths.

Looking at those statistics, it was alarming that last year nearly 20% of Academy students attended less than 80% of the time. But here's the good news: this year attendance figures are up. The rate is over 90% in Years 7 and 8, and 89% in Year 9. Rates are improving, too, in Years 10 and 11.

Clearly, attendance rates must continue to get better if students are to reach their full potential. It's important that parents and carers see the link between their children's attendance and their exam results. And as for students themselves - perhaps the new Vivo Miles rewards for good attendance might have some influence ...



RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION: A NEW PROVISION IN THE ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME.

As part of its development of the Enrichment programme, as well as complying with statutory PSHCE requirements, the Academy is to introduce a unit of work on the subjects of relationships and sexual health education. The unit will be delivered throughout Term 3 to year-based groups in one session every week. Content will be appropriate to the age of the group, and is designed to inform and support students' ability to make choices about personal relationships.

If you would like more information about the content of this provision please contact your child's Deputy Head of School: Mr. Walmsley (Abbey), Mr. Forbes (Brabazon), Mr. Greenfield (Harty), Mr. Ellis (Sheerness), Mr. Meaning (Shurland). If you do not wish your child to participate in this provision please inform your child's Headteacher in writing by the 4th January 2011.

FUTURE EVENTS

Term 3

4 Jan - 18 Feb 2011

Staff Development Day

8 Feb 2011

Year 9 Options Information Evenings

25 Jan 2011 (West)

26 Jan 2011 (East)

Parental Consultations

Year 11 15 Feb 2011

(East and West)

Year 9 (rearranged)

11 Jan 2011 (East)

12 Jan 2011 (West)

16 + Information Evening (rearranged)

18 Jan 2011



ASPIRE

Term 2 Newsletter 2010



WE'VE ENTERED THE VIVO ZONE

Introducing a rewarding programme for all students.

Vivo Miles is the Academy's new online system, offering a wide range of merchandise from a web-based catalogue. Students earn Vivos for their conduct throughout the term, and can spend them on anything they like from the catalogue.

Teachers and support staff will award Vivos for attendance, behaviour and effort. Good effort in a lesson, for instance, merits 5 Vivos, while a very good piece of work brings in 10 Vivos. A student avoiding any behaviour points in a week gets a 10 Vivo bonus. No behaviour points for the whole term means a massive 500 Vivo bonus. 100% attendance all term also hits the bullseye of 500 bonus Vivos.

What about rewards earned under the previous system? No problem. They transfer automatically - multiplied by five - to Vivo Miles. A student transferring 50 reward points, who hasn't missed any attendance and has no behaviour points, could have as many as 1470 Vivos to spend by the end of term. Pretty good timing with Christmas around the corner ...

Vivo merchandise includes items such as pens, footballs, jewellery, top up vouchers, iTunes vouchers, hair straighteners, computer games and even a gaming chair.

Parents and carers will receive regular statements about their children's Vivo earnings - and how they're spent. Students can also use their Vivo's to donate money to charity.



Mobile technology

Amendment to Academy Rules

The misuse of mobile phones and i-Pods during lessons has become an increasing problem at the Academy. We are aware that some students are using mobile technology inappropriately to access social networking sites during lessons and this is causing loss of learning time which is unacceptable. On occasion this misbehaviour leads to unnecessary confrontation between students and staff which further undermines the learning ethos.

From January the rules regarding mobile phones and i-pods will be as follows:-

- Mobile phones and i-Pods may be brought into the Academy at students' own risk
- Mobile phones and i-Pods may not be used in lessons or assemblies
- Misuse of mobile phones and i-Pods will result in there being confiscated
- Any refusal to hand over a device will result in exclusion for defiance
- Any device that has been confiscated will need to be collected from main reception by a parent or carer and may not be retrieved by the student.



STUDENT SCHEME HITS TV SCREENS

"You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours." It's a familiar idea, but 'Pay it Forward' takes it into a whole new dimension. The scheme, launched by the Academy's Caron Kerr, encourages local individuals and businesses to do someone a favour. As 'payment', the recipient does someone else a favour - and the process continues throughout the community.

Academy pupils are working on 'Pay it Forward' as part of their business and enterprise studies. Supported by Swale Council, they've taken over shop premises on Sheppey High Street and are running it as an exchange for pledges of help and requests for assistance. They're also offering their own course-linked 'favours' to the community, such as Internet help and beauty treatment.

Mayor of Swale Steve Worrall and Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP Gordon Henderson praised the project at the shop's opening, and the event was featured in local press and on BBC news. "The learning experience the students will get will be invaluable," said Caron.



NEW LEADERS MAKE THEIR MARK

The Academy's newly elected student leaders have started in style, making a big impression at a number of events.

In October, the Environmental Leaders visited Little Cheyne Wind Farm in New Romney. Not only did they hear about the plant and its activities, they were intrepid enough to climb inside one of the turbines for a closer look. Gulya Isyanova, Communications Officer for Partnership for Renewables, who arranged the visit, said: "It's important for the next generation of engineers, scientists and decision makers to learn about technologies such as wind energy. It's great to see Sheppey Academy helping students benefit from predicted employment opportunities in the sector."

Another newly elected group, the Interact Leaders, focus on fund-raising for local, national and international charities. They held their inaugural event with The Rotary Club of Minster-on-Sea in November, and launched a working partnership to co-ordinate charity events at the Academy. The group has already begun raising funds to boost literacy in African schools.

Also in November, the Academy's Sports Leaders kicked off with a motivational visit to Wembley Stadium. They tackled every aspect of the arena, including a walk through the tunnel to the pitch - just like the players - plus some raucous chanting from the stands. Their first leadership project will be organising the Academy-wide Sports Winter Cup.



A DATE WITH COUNCILLORS



Speed dating was the October challenge for the Student Council, made up of the Academy's Head Boys and Girls. Their short, sharp 'dates' were with local councillors, and the chat-up lines were the issues facing young people in the area. Commented local councillor Lesley Ingham: "They were a pleasure to meet and very interesting to talk to. They asked some very probing questions. Their Head of School should be very proud of them as they should be of themselves."

Student Council members followed this success by representing the Academy at the Swale Youth Forum, which meets in the Council Chambers at Swale House to discuss youth matters across the Borough. Back at the Academy it was celebration time, as staff invited the student leaders to the Executive Head Teachers Tea Party.

HONOUR FOR FALLEN HEROES



An unusual silence descended on the Academy for two minutes on the Eleventh of November, Armistice Day. Students and staff paused for quiet contemplation in memory of those who have lost their lives in the service of their country during two world wars and other conflicts.

Special assemblies in each school reflected the solemnity of the occasion, and students wrote their thoughts on leaves which they arranged in symbolic Trees of Hope.

Outside the Academy, Head Boys and Girls and student representatives took part in the Remembrance Day parade in Sheerness. They laid wreaths on behalf of each of the five Academy schools.

FAYE LINES UP FOR REGIONAL RUGBY SQUAD

Selectors have recognised the talents of Academy rugby star Faye Baker by selecting her for the South Eastern Regional Squad. Faye, 15, has been playing rugby since she was seven, starting at the Sheppey club then moving up a grade to Aylesford.

The regional selection is the latest stage in an impressive career so far - she has captained the Aylesford girls team this season, and has been in the Kent squad for the past three years. One day she hopes to make it into the England Development squad, and eventually play internationally. Progress to date certainly points in that direction.

JEROME'S DESIGN IS ON THE CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS



Compliments of the season to Jerome White of Harty School, whose Christmas card design will be popping through 400 letterboxes this year.

When Mayor of Swale Steve Worrell asked the Academy to produce his official Christmas card it resulted in hundreds of entries of an amazingly high standard.

Jerome's winning design, a dove of peace flying over the world, is now being printed. It brings him a welcome Christmas present of a £30 gift token, while runners-up Evan Francis and Sophie Parker receive £20 and £10 tokens. Further enlarged designs are now displayed in shops on Sheerness High Street.



A DRAMATIC LOOK AT DIVERSITY



A group of 16+ students have created a powerful drama exploring the theme of

Diversity. The play is aimed at young audiences, and the group is set to perform it at two primary schools. Liz Ruth, Team Leader for Performing Arts, said: "It's a sensitive and thoughtful piece. I'm proud of everyone involved. In particular, Jessica Cooke and Adam Noble are showing every sign of a bright future during rehearsals."

ADDED VALUE FOR GIFTED MATHS PUPILS



Gifted young mathematicians from Sheppey primaries are making big advances thanks to a pioneering Academy initiative.

Three promising Year Six pupils from Queenborough school have had a taste of Year Eight Maths lessons under Mrs Povey at the Academy West Site. At the same time some Year Five and Six pupils from Eastchurch have attended Year Ten Maths with Mr Buxton on the East site.

"The pupils are having a fantastic time and some may even be ready to attempt a GCSE in the summer," said Mr Buxton. Mrs Povey commented: "We're keen to develop links with the island's primary schools. This is one example of how we want to help pupils of all ages make the most of their potential."

SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL ANTI-BULLYING CAMPAIGN

A campaign of huge importance to many young people swung into action on November 15th. National Anti-Bullying Week took off with events and activities throughout the country, and Academy members were quick to make their own powerful contribution.

They explored the subject in a series of special assemblies, and launched their own campaign with compelling posters and stickers carrying the anti-bullying message and offering support to anyone affected.

