



## FUTURE EVENTS

### Term 2

1 Nov 2010 - 17 Dec 2010

### Staff Development Day

25 Nov 2010

### Parental Consultations

Year 8 Parent Consultation Evenings

16 Nov 2010 (East)

17 Nov 2010 (West)

Year 9 Parent Consultation Evenings

1 Dec 2010 (East)

2 Dec 2010 (West)

Year 12 & 13 Parent Consultation Evening

14 Dec 2010 (East & West)

### Examinations

Year 11 Mock Examinations

Week Beginning 13 Dec 2010

Year 11 Early Entry GCSE Examinations

English Paper 1: 8 Nov 2010 at 9am

English Paper 2: 10 Nov 2010 at 9am

Mathematics Paper 1: 9 Nov 2010 at 9am

Mathematics Paper 2: 12 Nov 2010 at 9am

### 16 + Open Evening

30 Nov 2010

### Christmas Showcase

8 Dec 2010 & 9 Dec 2010



### Attendance

The Academy SLT are determined to reach the government target of 94.6% attendance. This reflects the fact that good attendance supports good achievement. Each school now has a dedicated Attendance Officer and each site has a Family Liaison Officer who support students, families and staff to ensure we meet this challenging target. Our attendance is on an upward trend and our current rate is 88.6% - so lots of work to do. Students who achieve good attendance (95+%) will be rewarded as part of the Academy Rewards system.



### Academy Use of Student Photographs

The Academy uses photographs of students in several aspects of school life. If you have already informed us that you don't wish your young person's image to be used in future events you will not need to contact us again.

If you haven't already contacted the Academy and you do not want a photograph of your child to be published please could you inform your Head of School in writing.

Abbey Mrs Chester

Brabazon Mr Forbes

Harty Mr Corbett

Sheerness Mr Davies

Shurland Mr Barrett



# ASPIRE

## Term 1 Newsletter 2010



## NEW BUILDING DESIGNS UNVEILED

Sheppey locals had a view of the future in September, as building plans for the new Academy went on view in a public consultation. The new build is designed to bring unrivalled learning facilities to the island, and Academy leaders are now working with consultants on plans for the interior. The project is scheduled for completion in early 2013.



## TOP CLASS! RECORD BREAKING EXAM RESULTS

The Island's best ever. That's the verdict on this year's Academy exam results.

More than 40 students gained university places as success rates throughout the school showed impressive advances. Passes in Level 3 English, History, Law, Sociology and Citizenship hit the 100% mark, with over half of pupils achieving the higher A\* - C grades. Across all Level 3 subjects the pass rate was an almost-perfect 95%, with no fewer than 10 students scoring three or more A grades at A level.

GCSE students also turned in a record performance. 65% earned A\* - C grades in five or more subjects - up by 11% on last year. And the number of students whose five A\* - C passes included English and Maths rose by 8% to 30%.

Faye Saunders led the field with an outstanding total of 15 A\* - C grades. She was followed closely, with 13 A\* - C grades each, by Anna Berrisford, Shannon Eastoe, Keiron Hughes, Paul Knights and Demi-Louise Nicholls.



## JAMIE OLIVER 'BIG BREAKFAST'



Year 9 students are getting a real taste for learning, Jamie Oliver-style.

They've just started the Home Cooking Skills course pioneered by the TV chef. But the aim goes beyond just rustling up something nice for dinner: the course leads to a formal Level 2 qualification with the Edexcel examination board, so could launch

successful students on a catering career.

In the words of the Naked Chef himself the idea is teach students "To cook great food which looks amazing - real food for real life."

The first lesson? How to prepare and serve a full-English breakfast - the healthy way. Students then tested the results by tucking into their course work. Everyone survived ...

## OPEN VIEW FOR PARENTS

Parents of Year 6 students enjoyed an inside view of Academy life on October 6th and 7th. Student ambassadors showed visitors around the East and West Sites on the two Open Evenings, when active displays of exemplar work, resources and workshops showcased the work of Academy students.



## ART AT THE ABBEY



Minster Abbey took on the role of a magnificent art gallery on October 9th, displaying the work of Academy students on its recent Open Day.

Over 400 visitors took the opportunity to view the wealth of church treasures and history on show, which included crusader crosses, a pagan Green Man and a rarely-seen pair of 14th century brasses.

The students' pictures and models were clearly in exalted company - so it was praise indeed when the Abbey clergy enquired about using one of the images as a logo on church publicity.

## THREE IN LINE FOR AWARD

Three Academy students have been nominated and shortlisted for a special award from Amnesty International UK, the human rights campaigning organisation.

The AQA examination board was impressed by the work of Jack Dunphy, Stacey Baxter - both now at university - and Jake Friith. The three students made their mark with their performance in the A Level citizenship exam, and will attend the AQA Student of the Year Awards ceremony in London in December.

## A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE FOR NEW PUPILS

Primary school pupils had a preview of life ahead when they joined the Academy for a few weeks during Term 6. They came from all nine primaries on the Isle of Sheppey as part of the new Island Transition Programme.

The plan introduces Academy-students-to-be to their fresh surroundings and new teachers before the summer break, helping them settle in comfortably when they return in September.

The transition programme included two days of induction followed by a timetable of projects. Each day began with an assembly, when representatives of the Island churches discussed the topics of change and decision making.



## STUDENTS TO LOG ON AT HOME

Homework goes online in Term 2.

From November students will be able to access homework assignments with the click of a mouse. They'll find a weekly agenda of homework for each subject, as well as the lesson resources to help complete each requirement.

The move is part of the Academy's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), which is designed to take advantage of the potential IT offers for education.

Says West Site Executive Head Alan Klee: "We're committed to the highest level of academic achievement - and we believe that regular homework is crucial to that. Putting it online is the next logical stage."

Term 3 will see further developments in VLE with parents being able to view their child's up-to-date attendance, rewards, behaviour and assessment data, as well as homework and learning resources information.



## "YOU'RE HIRED!"

It's over! After six weeks of gruelling competition and an emotional final the winner of the Academy junior 'Apprentice' has emerged from over 200 entrants.

Based on TV hit show 'The Apprentice', the Academy version saw teams designing fashion, creating window displays and running a cake stall among other tests of ingenuity and invention.

Final task for the four survivors was to promote tourism on the Isle of Sheppey, with each contender setting up a stall in an empty shop in the centre of Sheerness.

Kyle Mullings of Sheerness School showed his business skill and determination in fighting his way through to first place. His 'Kyle of Sheppey' giant map swung the decision, but only after a gripping last appearance before the judges in a packed school hall. He was challenged all the way by runners-up Leigha Mitchell of Abbey School, Ewan Goddard of Harty School and Rhys George of 16+.

Sheppey MP Gordon Henderson presented prizes of £500, £250, £125 and £50, donated by Kent County Council, The Island Partnership and Go Response.

Next stop for Kyle is a visit to the House of Commons as the first IOSA entrepreneur.

## SPORT STARS AIMING FOR SUCCESS

Three different sports bodies have picked Academy students as stars in the making.

Dylan Damonse of Year 10 is joining a different type of academy, with a great goal in sight. Reading FC have invited him to attend the club's development scheme on day release. He'll train each week at the Madejski stadium, aiming to fulfil his ambition of becoming a professional footballer.

Leigha Mitchell of Year 9 will represent the South East in the National Inter-Divisional Championship swimming finals. Success for Leigha could mean a place in the International Schools team organised by the English Schools' Swimming Association.

Alexander Davolls of Year 11 lines up for the Kent Under 16 Rugby trials, to be held at Kent College in Canterbury. This is a first step towards a place in the county team for the talented Academy player.

## NEW PROGRAMME OFFERS A RICHER OUTLOOK

This academic year has seen a transformation in the way students experience the wider social aspects of education. They're discovering new ways of thinking, new ways of seeing the world and new ways of expressing themselves through the Enrichment programme.

Enrichment is the restructured and updated format of Family Unit Time. It's a programme created to broaden the learning experience by introducing students to social and moral issues as well as valuable opportunities for personal development.

Students receive three regular sessions of Enrichment within their tutor groups. Each session has a different focus, leading to a different kind of thought-provoking involvement.

One session concentrates on the topics of Personal Social Health and Economic education and Citizenship. A second session, during a whole-school assembly, looks at moral and spiritual development followed by student comments and observations.

The final session is devoted to student electives. Here, a student chooses one activity from a range of options designed to bring out personal strengths. The Academy Student Leadership Programme, offers the chance to develop self confidence and leadership skills. Students can achieve Head Boy and Head Girl positions in each school, and become part of an Academy-wide student council that has a significant voice in the life of the school.

Other activities tackle the fields of environment, charity, community and sport, encouraging the growth of leadership skills in more specific areas. Says East Site Executive Head David Rahman: "This is a new aspect of the curriculum, and I think it offers students a valuable opportunity. They're learning how to get to grips with the kind of issues they'll be facing in the world outside the school."

## MURAL MARKS 150 YEARS OF RAIL LINK

Artists from Sheppey schools have created a stunning mural to celebrate a century and a half of rail travel between Sittingbourne and Sheerness. Academy students joined talented members of two other Island schools to produce the imaginative display, which depicts a map of the island made up of hundreds of photographs. Unveiled in June, the mural is now a prominent feature of Queenborough Station.



## CONQUERING FEARS WITH FUN

A 'leap of faith' from a telegraph pole to a trapeze. A gravity-defying climb up a nine-metre wall. A tense manhunt in the depths of an ancient wood. Firing a volley of arrows from a longbow towards a distant target. Year 7 students met challenge after challenge in a day of action and adventure at Carrotty Wood, near Tonbridge.

Expert instructors took them through a sequence of testing activities, with students conquering personal fears as they battled on. It was a day devoted to personal goal-setting, facing up to difficult tasks and showing resilience. The Academy group came through triumphantly - and agreed that, despite the hair-raising moments, it was actually rather good fun.