

# PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

September 2011

## WELCOME BACK TO EVERYONE!

A very warm welcome back to all of our students especially those in Year 7. We know that all our students will support the younger ones coming into the school and will make them feel very welcome. We look forward to working with all of our students.

We will be publishing our Personal Learning Timetable very shortly and would encourage all students to look at this carefully and make the effort to learn something new. At the end of the Autumn Term we shall be putting on a very exciting

production which will involve a large number of our students and staff. Year 7 students would be very welcome to join the cast as singers or dancers.

## EXAMINATION RESULTS 2011

The GCSE results have once again improved across a range of subjects. This represents excellent progress rates for the students in Year 11. Mrs King, Principal commented, 'I am delighted and absolutely thrilled at the wonderful achievement of all our students. I would like to thank all students, parents, staff and Governors' for all their efforts.' I would particularly like to thank our business mentors who gave of their time so generously.

The overall pass rate 5A\* to C grades is 100% which represents an outstanding achievement for the 174 students. This is an improvement of 4% on last year's



### The top ten achievers were:

- Camy Aw
- Oluwabunmi Bodija
- Harley Brown
- Rachael Fontenelle
- Alba Imeraj
- Abass Keeble
- Zoe Lepine
- Michael Lilley
- Jessica Parlane
- Charlotte Thornett
- Rebecca Wallace
- Samuel Yeates

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excellent figure of 96%. The 5A\* to C with English and Maths is 51%, an improvement from 46% last year. This again represents a huge amount of work on the students' part supported by their parents and the staff of the Academy. The Academy is very proud of what has been achieved this year looks forward to another outstanding academic year in 2011-12.



# THE ORSETT SHOW



On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September The Ockendon Academy took part in the Orsett Show. The Academy's display proved a popular attraction throughout the day with a varied selection of produce grown in the academy gardens. Mr King and several students showed off the rabbits, guinea pigs and chickens allowing many excited small children to hold and stroke them. All students involved were a credit to the academy showing their initiative



and enthusiasm for the eco school.

Work from many departments was on display and several pieces of students work were entered into the hobbies and handicrafts competitions, winning first, second and third place in the under 16 sewing class and the same in the under 16 painting and drawing. Congratulations to those students who won awards.





Sarah Curtis, a student in Year 11 has been working very hard in the local community creating opportunities for young people to take an interest in dance.

In May 2011, Sarah decided this would be a good idea and applied for a 'Think Big Project' funding. She had to think of a project which would benefit the community and to explain in an interview how and why she should be funded. She gained the funding which amounted to £300. Sarah realised this would not go far if she was to realise her project and contacted an established dance group to help her out. She took the enterprising step of approaching 'Street Life' a local dance group. They provided the venue and the teachers, Sarah provided the funding. Sarah used

promotional leaflets and local contacts to publicise the project. Her aim was to provide 2 workshops for 2 hours per week for 5 weeks. The initiative has been really successful and over 50 young people have benefited from Sarah's idea. She intends to continue with the project by trying to secure funding through other sources such as the Prince's Trust.

Sarah also spent a week in July at the Anglia Ruskin University on a taster course for medical study. She secured this prestigious placement through the Aim Higher initiative. Sarah hopes to pursue a career in the medical profession.

We wish to congratulate Sarah on her outstanding contribution to school and community life.

## ADHD INFORMATION MEETING



Come along to our Coffee and Chat morning for parents of children with ADHD

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011 at:  
Stanford le Hope Children's Centre, Copland Road,  
Stanford le Hope, SS17 0DF  
9.30 – 11.30 am

**"Attention for Me"**

This month we have a speaker from Network 81

An Essex based Charity working to support parents of children with special educational needs and disabilities.

No need to book, just turn up

Further details from:

Gillian (Family lives) 07530 149710

Beverley (Attention for Me) 07969 442086

## YVONNE EVANS

Yvonne Evans joins the careers team as Community and Employer engagement Broker. She brings a wealth of experience in industry and with employers plus knowledge of , and success in Apprenticeships and Work Based Learning. You will be able to meet Yvonne at Parents' events.



## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

We remind all parents that they should keep us informed of any changes to personal details so that we can ensure we can contact you in case of emergencies. All medical information should be provided and updated regularly.

May we also remind you that students should endeavor to strive for 100% attendance rates. Any days lost have a negative impact on student achievement.

## LOST PROPERTY

All lost property will be displayed on the school website, please check here first if your child loses any of their belongings. There is a large amount of Lost property that has been collected from the lockers and form rooms. This will be displayed in the student entrance until Thursday afternoon when will we dispose of it.

# IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Here are this year's Term Dates and Holiday Closures, please be reminded that these dates are also posted on The Academy's website (which is updated with new information on a regular basis):

## **Autumn Term 1:**

Tuesday 6th September 2011 to Friday 21st October 2011

Half Term: Monday 24th October 2011 to Friday 28th October 2011 (Inclusive)

## **Autumn Term 2:**

Monday 31st October 2011 to Friday 16th December 2011

Christmas Holiday: Monday 19th December 2011 to Tuesday 3rd January 2012 (Inclusive)

## **Spring Term 1:**

Wednesday 4th January 2012 to Friday 10th February 2012

Half Term: Monday 13th February 2012 to Friday 17th February 2012 (Inclusive)

## **Spring Term 2:**

Monday 20th February 2012 to Friday 30th March 2012

Easter Holiday: Monday 2nd April 2012 to Friday 13th April

## **Summer Term 1:**

Monday 16th April 2012 to Friday 1st June 2012

May Bank Holiday: Monday 7th May 2012

Half Term: Monday 4th June 2012 to Friday 8th June 2012 (Inclusive)

## **Summer Term 2:**

Monday 11th June 2012 to Friday 20th July 2012

### **Teacher Training Days:**

Monday 5th December 2011

Tuesday 3rd January 2012

Friday 29th June 2012

## **Attendance and Punctuality**

Good Attendance and Punctuality are key in supporting your child's success throughout their school career. Please ensure your child attends regularly and also punctually. The Academy starts at 8.30am (we expect all students to arrive no later than 8.30am). We also ask that on the day your child has assembly that they arrive no later than 8.20am so that the assembly can begin promptly at 8.30am.

The Academy does not authorise term time holidays.

## **Other Important Dates for the Autumn Term**

22-09-2011	Year 11 Parents; Evening
29-09-2011	Year 6 Open Evening
03-10-2011	HPV Vaccination 1
04-11-2011	Individual Photographs
15-11-2011	Year 9 Celebration Assembly
16-11-2011	Year 10 Celebration Assembly
18-11-2011	Review and Target Setting Day
22-11-2011	Year 7 Celebration Assembly
23-11-2011	Year 8 Celebration Assembly
24-11-2011	Year 11 Celebration Assembly
28-11-2011	HPV Vaccination 2

## **PE Kit**

The Academy PE Kit is as follows:

White polo shirt with Academy badge

Trainers

Black or plain swimming costume/trunks and bathing cap

Navy sweatshirt with Academy badge

Reversible cold weather shirt

Rain jacket (optional)

In colder weather, students will be allowed to wear a school sweatshirt and navy tracksuit bottoms for outdoor Physical Education lessons.

We would ask that all Kit is clearly labelled with your child's name and, where possible, form details to ensure they get all items back quickly in the event they lose anything.