

THE HEREFORD ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



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**SEPTEMBER 2010
Issue 26**

Welcome or Welcome Back,

I would like to welcome and welcome back all the students to the Hereford Academy for the academic year 2010-11. We, as a community, again look forward to this year as being another year of "personal best", "high achievement" and living "life in all its fullness".

In reviewing last year, I would like to congratulate all the students for the best ever performance in the GCSE examinations. Results were outstanding and best in the academy's history. 86% of students achieved 5 or more A* - C grades and nearly 98% of students achieved 5 or more A* - G Grades including English and Mathematics. Outstanding subject results came from many subject areas including some who achieved 100% pass rate. We were particularly pleased with the improvement in English and Mathematics this year, both curriculum areas had their best ever results. Also students in last year's, Year 10, were entered early for GCSE English and Mathematics and achieved good pass grades. This gives an early indication that this year's results will again be of the highest quality. My congratulations also go to all staff who have guided and supported these students during their Key Stage 4 courses.

Our first cohort of post 16 students have also completed their courses and, in the vast majority, have been able to go onto either further studies elsewhere or entered employment. Post 16 student numbers will be well over 100 this year, which is outstanding as we started with only 28 students in 2008. The popularity of our post 16 provision shows how successful education at the academy has become.

The work undertaken by The Hereford Academy this year has also been recognised through achievement of the following, Leading Parent Partnership Award, Every Child Matters Gold Award and the International School Award. Students, staff, governors and parents have been integral in working together to achieve this recognition.

The new building is on time at present, our partners, Willmott Dixon, are convinced

that the project will be completed so that all our students will be in the new building by September 2011. There are still restrictions on visitors car parking and if you wish to come and see us and if you are able to walk to the academy then could we ask for your co-operation in doing so to ease any congestion. The building itself is impressive both inside and out. We are intending that members of the student union will have an opportunity to visit it very soon. Students in other subject areas such as Construction and Science will also have regular visits to the academy site.

Towards the end of last term we had a successful monitoring visit from OFSTED when the academy was judged to be making good progress. All academies go through a monitoring visit in their second year. A copy of the letter from HMI will be placed on the website - if you wish to see a personal copy then please contact my PA, Mrs. S.Hughes, c/o The Hereford Academy and we will be delighted to send you one.

This term there are many events for students but I would like to draw your attention to our Achievement Evening on 18th November. All parents who have students receiving a prize or certificate are welcome. I would also like to invite parents, students and friends of the academy to our carol service at the Hereford Cathedral on Wednesday 8th December. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

John Sheppard
Principal and CEO

ATTENTION PARENTS

On Thursday 30th September, The Hereford Academy will be holding an Open Evening for all prospective students and parents/carers, with the opportunity to tour the school with staff and meet the Principal. Tours on the evening will be accompanied by staff and students.

On the mornings of Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th September the Academy will also be open for tours between 9.30am and 10.15am and 11.00am and 12.15pm. For more information please call the academy on 01432 355213.

Parents Forum

At the academy we are keen to find out the views and opinions of our students' parents and carers and so, once every half term we hold a Parents' Forum to give you the opportunity to air your views. The next forum is on Tuesday 5th October at 7pm in the Community Learning Centre at the back of the academy site. If you would like to attend please call the academy on 01432 355 213 ext. 193

Below illustrates the actions we have taken at the academy after listening to the parents/carers of students at the academy.

YOU SAID	WE DID
You did not like Academic Tutoring at KS4, as it did not provide enough information.	We re-instated subject based Parents' Evenings.
You did not have enough information about the Curriculum and you did not always understand levels.	We now send out termly Curriculum Newsletters. We issued booklets explaining levels at Academic Tutoring Days.
Students do not have enough homework.	In September we will issue a homework timetable and increase use of the planners.
You would like your child to have lockers.	These will be available in the new building.
You were not happy with school meal provision.	We set up a Healthy Schools Food Group to look at this, with a parent on the group.
You would like a Pamper Evening.	This is being arranged.
You were worried about Facebook and E-Safety	We arranged a speaker to attend the Parents' Forum to explain how to be safe. There will be another session this term. Guidance is also available in the parents section on the academy website www.theherefordacademy.org.uk
You did not have a voice in the school.	We set up Parents' Forum half termly - all parents are welcome to attend. The next forum is on Tuesday 5th October at 7pm.
You wanted to see more 'fun' events	We have had two community Fun Days with lots of activities for all ages.
Polish Parents could not understand the English Language and did not understand the English Education.	We started EASL classes at the Community Learning Centre. We held a meeting for Eastern European Parents with the Police and Housing Department. We appointed a Polish Learning Support Worker to help with Transition and to support students in lessons.
You are unfamiliar with vocational subjects eg: Young Apprentice, ASDAN, Public Services, BTEC, COPE.	We will hold more information sessions about these subjects to explain fully. YA Parents' Evenings have been held this term.
You are concerned about bullying and other issues	We are constantly re-viewing our procedures and policies.
You are concerned about school safety/ security	We installed more cameras around the site. All staff and post 16 students must wear lanyards. Photographs are in reception. We constantly review our Safeguarding Procedures and the Parents' Forum have reviewed a number of policies.

ATTENDANCE

The Academy is working to improve the attendance of all students. If a student's attendance is 95% and above it has a strong impact on their exam results. We are working hard to improve attendance and ask you to take time to read The Hereford Academy Attendance leaflet as you as a parent/carer can all help your child to reach their full potential at the Academy.

What to do if your child is ill

As a parent/carer you must contact the school to inform them of your child's absence before 9.30am. Telephone no. 01432 355213 ex.118 or 184. Please leave a message informing us of the nature of the absence each day of the child's illness. A note should be sent in with the child on their return to school to be put on file.

Lates are a Problem

Sometimes being late cannot be avoided, if your child is going to be late for a valid reason, please inform the school by telephoning or writing a note. Students, who are persistently late or arrive late without authorisation, will be issued with C4 (1 hour's detention after school). You will be notified of the detention by post. Students, who have lunch passes and are late back to school, will have their lunch pass revoked for 2 weeks, you will have to make arrangements for lunch to be taken in school. We ask you as parent/carer to ensure your child is in school on time. Students who are late disrupt classes and other students learning by arriving late to class.



M8's
These old mates have now moved on but we will be recruiting for new M8's over the next few weeks, watch this space!!!!

SAS (Study and Skills) Club

The club is available for any student from all years (including post 16) to attend to give time and space for homework, coursework, individual study or hobbies. It is run in the Infozone on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 3.00pm to 5.00pm. It works on a drop in basis, so students can come along as it suits them, within the timed sessions.

In addition Tuesdays are also film club night, where budding film critics can watch a movie and write a critical review shared nationally on the schools film club network.

On Thursdays potential Generals of the future flex their strategic skills to battle their squads using the Games Workshop army games. This year we intend to take part in the Games Workshop Schools league. The club is run by Mr Pitcher and Miss Kendrick who are more than happy to explain further the facilities available.

Head Boy and Head Girl

Congratulations go to the new Head Boy Ieuan Marlowe and Head Girl Amy Saunders, and also to the Deputy Head Boy and Girl - Joshua Loughman and Amy Newman!

New Build Project update: September 2010



The Hereford Academy project has now less than one year to phase 1 handover. The project is running according to plan and exactly on programme.

The concrete frame works and steel frame works have now been completed. Works are near completion to install the entire roof. Envelope works will continue through the autumn including completion of masonry works, cladding and glazing works.

Substantial work has already progressed internally. High level mechanical and electrical first fix works is substantially complete to the ground floor and is progressing on the first floor. All internal blockwork walls are complete with partitioning works commenced to both ground and first floor.

In the next three months, it is planned to complete all mechanical and electrical first fix works, completion to partitioning works and commencement of floor screeding, carpentry first fix works and mechanical and electrical second fix works.

The off site highway works are currently being planned with works likely to commence to alter the academy entrance in the New Year.

Willmott Dixon will continue with their involvement with the Academy education programme during the autumn term and throughout the duration of the project. Several projects are due to take place this term including bricklaying and scaffolding workshops, science projects relating to the new building etc. In addition, site tours will regularly take place involving both students and staff. It is planned to make the construction project a valuable educational experience for all.

London Geography Trip

On the 5th July some year 8 pupils went on a Geography trip to London. We stayed in a LSE accommodation called Bankside B&Bs, which all together provided us with all the necessities needed.

Jazmine Williams recalls the trip: *We arrived in London at precisely 12pm, and our first stop was at the Natural History Museum where we were given two booklets and assigned a task to complete by going around the different sections in the Museum. We completed the task successfully, learning about different things such as volcanoes, space, earthquakes, animals, rocks and the food chain. Once we had finished there, we had a quick tour around Central London. We managed to drive past Buckingham Palace, Houses of Parliament, Big Ben and the London Eye. Altogether the Museum was definitely something I'd go and do again! When we got back to our Hotel, we had about 1 hour to unpack, freshen up and get ready for our 3 course meal! I had a salad and some pasta for starter, steak, chips and creamy pasta for main, and for desert I had a slice of chocolate cake with a strawberry on top. Altogether I found it very nice and filling. After our dinner we had another half hour to relax in our rooms, which meant meeting in the Lobby for 6pm. It took us about 40 minutes to walk to the London Eye from our room, and on the way we met the Guitar Playing Dog from Britain's Got Talent! When we got on the London Eye a lot of us were scared, but as soon as we got to the top the view was amazing! We could see near enough ALL of London! It's about ten times the size of Hereford! On the way out of the London Eye we bought a picture of us all on there, and then visited a 4D Cinema!*

A big thank you to the Sylvia Short Trust who gave us money towards the cost of the trip



Year 8 pupils on the London Eye as part of the Geography Field Trip



Front row, left to right: Amy Saunders (Head Girl), Ieuan Marlowe (Head Boy) Back Row, left to right: Joshua Loughman (Deputy Head Boy), Amy Newman (Deputy Head Girl)

SCIENCE NEWS

Results

We are pleased to announce students achieved 97% 2A* - C GCSE (or equivalent) in Science this year and the Science Department are very proud of the hard work and commitment that all of the students showed to achieve these fantastic results. 93% of our GCSE students achieved 2 C grades or above with Carrie Jones achieving 2 A's and Ben Chandler achieving an A* and an A. 100% of our Btec Diploma students achieved at least a 'pass' with Ashleigh Marie Nicholls achieving a 'Distinction'. 97% of our Btec Certificate students achieved at least a 'Pass' with Abbie Jones and Alicia Thomas achieving Distinctions.

Exams

This year will be the first year that we gain results for the Triple award GCSE after introducing it last year, we are very excited about the prospects for our Triple scientists who have started the year very well. All of our GCSE students in year 10 & 11 will be taking their first exams of the year on November 9th. The students have been provided with all of their results so far and know exactly which modules that they are preparing for.



Events

Science club is launching again after a fantastic year last year when well over 100 students attended. This year it will be run by Miss Barry and Miss Cooke and promises to be as explosive as ever! The Science Department are looking forward to Open Evening on 30th September when they will have a range of experiments on show including dissections, exploding wax and hydrogen balloons.

New courses

New courses are being introduced for both the Btec and GCSE qualifications this year which will start in year 9. These courses will continue to allow us to meet the needs of all our learners with options that prepare every student for the next stage of their studies or life after school.



Btec Forensic Science

On Monday 20th September a group of Academy students from the BTEC Forensic Science courses will be visiting to the West Mercia Police HQ at Hindlip Hall.

After an overview of the wide range of potential careers within both the Police and Forensic Sciences, students will get the opportunity to talk through a recreated crime scene; this will involve applying a wide variety of forensic techniques alongside experts from our local Police Force Forensic Team.

Following on from the crime scene students will be able to meet more of the specialists from a variety of forensic specialisms including the high tech Crime Unit and Foot and Tyre Print Experts amongst many others. This visit will give an exciting kick start to the course for these students new to the world of Forensic Science and allowing us to gain an understanding of Policing and in particular Forensic Investigations.



The Science department with members old and new

New Staff

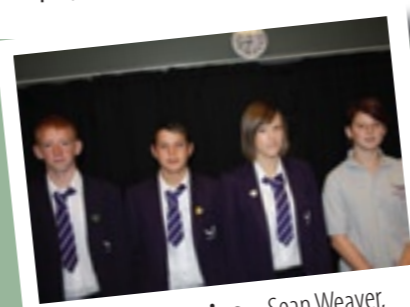
The Science Department has a number of changes this year with Mrs Thompson on maternity leave following the birth of her son. Mr Tootell is Head of Department and will be supported by Mrs Overfield and Mr Bentley who will be responsible for Key Stage Four & Five respectively. The department is also pleased to welcome two new members to the team, Miss Cooke has joined as a Newly Qualified Teacher after a very successful training year and Mr Roberts is covering Mrs Thompson.

Intervention News

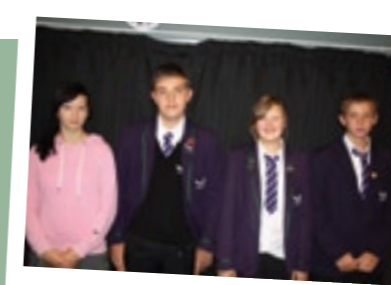
The Learning Zone is delighted to report the fantastic achievement of The Hereford Academy in being awarded the Every Child Matters Quality mark award to Gold Standard. This is equivalent to an Ofsted 'outstanding' and reflects the positive values the Academy promotes within the school and wider community. We are also pleased to unveil a range of state-of-the-art numeracy initiatives this term. Students following intervention programmes in The Learning Zone will be introduced to brand new schemes, including the updated 'Success maker' interactive computer software, which is designed to be highly individual and engaging, alongside developing a wider understanding of key concepts in both English and Mathematics. International research shows marked gains in results when using the scheme, and we are very much looking forward to introducing it to Hereford Academy students. For Maths GCSE candidates we have purchased a range of targeted interventions designed to increase grades at levels through G to C. Complete with computer software and workbooks for each level, the intervention is designed to give students a firm grasp of concepts, and

enable them to apply these during exam conditions. As we enter the autumn term, planning has started to run the very successful 'Reading Challenge' alongside a 'Maths Challenge'. These interventions will pair up year seven students with mentors in years ten or eleven, and provide valuable opportunities for pastoral and academic support, whilst enabling older students to develop mentoring skills and make a valuable positive impact to the school community. Literacy interventions have already started, with pupils coming to The Learning Zone to receive one-to-one support in their GCSE coursework and basic literacy skills, and we are pleased to welcome small groups of KS4 students as they begin their first experiences of the exciting 'wider skills opportunities' for the Prince's Trust XL awards. We are also looking forward to welcoming the Year seven intake once they have settled down in their mainstream classes, and introducing them to the exciting reading and writing schemes available at The Learning Zone.

The new House Captains & Sports Captains for 2010/11...



House Captains – Sean Weaver, Benson Williams, Chloe Lloyd and Ellie Morris



Sports Captains – Amanda Grimsley, Joshua Loughman, Amy Newman and Jordan Marlowe

What's going on this term in Modern Foreign Languages?

This term GCSE Spanish has started and the group would like to invite students to come to their "Tapas Restaurant" in room 33 on Thursday 23rd of September and Thursday 21st of October. It will start at 12.45 and finish at 1.10.

The Languages Curriculum Area will also be working with PE Curriculum Area this term in running the Spanish Football School for the Gifted and Talented students. Students will combine football and language skills together and finish the course with a trip to Arsenal Football Club.

French Club start on Wednesday 15th September in room 33 at 12.45. All students and staff are more than welcome to come and practise their skills. The Languages Curriculum Area is hoping to run a weekend trip to Lille in December for Christmas shopping. This trip will be for the French GCSE Class and the Spanish GCSE class as well as members of the French Club.

There will be a "Homework Help Club" on Wednesdays from 3.15-4.00 if you need help with your Languages homework in room 33 with Miss Mogford starting Wednesday 15th September. Friday's after school club is the French Coursework club for the GCSE Class starting Friday 17th September.

Bienvenue! Bienvenidos! Willkommen! Croeso! Välkommen!

In other words welcome to the new term! I would also like to welcome some new comers to the Languages Curriculum Area, Mr Evans and Mrs Winder. Mr Evans is teaching some French this year and Mrs Winder is teaching some Spanish.



Sports Day July 2010

Hurray the weather stayed dry for our annual sports day. The pupils took part in a variety of sports including tag rugby, athletics and target sports. A great day was had by staff and students alike. A big thank you must go to all the pupils for their sportsmanship and enthusiasm. Sydney won sports day with Beijing finishing a very close second. Atlanta and Athens were tied in 4th place with London finishing 5th overall. ... and the overall house standings of 09/10
1st Sydney – 76
2nd Beijing – 73
3rd Atlanta – 72
4th Athens – 66
5th London – 52
The points were given out in relation to the finishing positions of all the sports competitions that took place last calendar year.

Ardeche Watersports Trip June 2010

The PE department took 35 Year 10 and 11 students to the Ardeche at the end of June for a weeks long watersports trip. We travelled down by coach, which took 22 hours but as soon as we got there the students were raring to go!! For the first 3 days we were situated in Mimosa where we took part in Windsurfing, Sailing, Banana Boating, Snorkelling and Canoeing. All students worked so hard to get to grips with the skills that were needed to master these activities, despite how difficult it was!! We then spent a day at a waterpark on-route to Segries, which was a great chance to chill out whilst catching the rays! Whilst in Segries we spent 3 days canoeing down the Ardeche River. Despite the hard work, the scenery was amazing! Can I take this opportunity to thank all of the staff and students that came on the trip for making it a fantastic experience. I look forward to next year!!



New Staff



L-R: Mr Littlewood, Mr Pierce, Miss Cookson, Mr Davis, Mr Griffin, Miss Gallant, Mr Williams, Mrs Davies

Welcome to the four new PE staff that we have in the department this year –
• Miss Gallant joins us after completing her PGCE with the Marches in Hereford
• Miss Cookson joins us after completing her PGCE at Worcester University
• Mrs Williams joins us after completing her PGCE at Newman University College
• Mr Pierce joins us after completing his PGCE in Cheltenham University.

BTEC Sport KS4 Results

Pass or above – 95% Pass – 52%
Merit – 18% Distinction * – 15%
Distinction * – 15% Dist – 10%
8 students achieved the BTEC Certificate (equiv 2 GCSE's)
37 students achieved the BTEC Diploma (equiv 4 GCSE's)

KS5 Results

All students in Post 16 achieved a Pass in the BTEC National Certificate (2 A'Levels)

The Hereford Academy P.E Extra Curricular Autumn Term 2010

Day	Lunchtime 12.45	After school 3.00pm
Monday	Fitness All JH Year 7 Football MP	Badminton All JH Girls Rugby 10/11/12/13 SC Dance VC/KG
Tuesday	Fitness All NA Year 8 Football MP Table Tennis Years 7/8/9 SL	Badminton All JH Netball Years 7/8/9 HG BTEC Dance VC Rugby Years 10/11 MP Basketball 8/9 SL
Wednesday	Fitness All VC Year 9 Football NA Table Tennis Years 10/11/12/13 SL	Netball 10/11 HG/ MD Gym All SB/MP/KG Year 7 Rugby SL Alternative Sports All AD
Thursday	Fitness All VC Year 10 Football AD Year 12/13 Football KG	BTEC Dance VC Year 8/9 Rugby MP Trampoline All HG/KG Inclusion Club Invitation Only NA
Friday	Fitness All AW1 Year 11 Football AD	Basketball Years 8/9 NA / MP Basketball Years 10/11/12/13 SL Gym Competition SB / SB