

THE HEREFORD ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



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Issue 29

Dear Parents and Carers

Coming to the end of the final term of the academic year, 2010-11, already we can reflect on the successes of our students and staff.

Our OFSTED visit was a huge success with the academy achieving a grading of a good school with outstanding features. I am sure you will join me in congratulating staff and students in this excellent achievement. Inspectors were particularly impressed with:

- The quality of teaching and learning
- Students enjoying coming to the academy
- Care, guidance and support for students are outstanding
- Learners like the friendly and safe environment in which everyone is valued.
- Progression rates within the academy and to further study or employment are high
- The curriculum opportunities are significant with exceptional individual choice.

The inspectors received consistently positive comments from parents and carers during the inspection. One comment summed up the views of many: 'Since my son has been at The Hereford Academy I have been overjoyed with the outstanding pastoral and academic support he has been given.'

The new building is almost complete and looks extremely impressive. The keys will be handed over to academy representatives on 15th July. Staff will move in to prepare for the new term on Monday 18th July. Year 7 and 11 students will return on Wednesday 7th September and Years 8 to 10 will join them on Thursday 8th September, Years 12 and 13 will join a week or so later. This is an exciting time

for students as they will be the first to move into the brand new site and the first to take advantage of the impressive facilities this site has to offer.

We will, however, have to make some changes to the academy routines. Students will still start and finish at the same time unless they wish to participate in the extra-curricular and extension activities that will be offered. Lessons, however, will be longer and this will allow students to get more involved in greater understanding of their subjects. We are going to introduce two 20 minute reading sessions a week to enable students to practice reading and improve their reading levels. It is clear how important reading and writing skills are for all types of employment now and it is our intention to ensure our students are equipped to compete with anyone.

Lunch-time will be reduced to 30 minutes to allow two sittings for lunch and to lessen the impact of having limited outside space to play in. No student will be allowed home for lunch because the time is so short and if students don't want to take advantage of the new cafe food they can still bring a packed lunch from home. The limited play space is owing to the demolition of the old buildings and the development of new play areas should be completed by September 2012. The new all weather pitch and hard play area should be complete by March 2012, depending on the weather.

I am sure as parents or carers you will support these changes as they are made to ensure that the academy continues to improve and strive for the best opportunities and results for your son or daughter. We will be pleased to welcome you into the new building on Saturday 10th September as our academy will be open from 11.00am to 2.00pm for the community to visit the new academy buildings, see the new facilities and get an idea of the experiences the students at the Hereford Academy will now take part in. Can I wish you all a restful holiday and that students return prepared, as usual, from 8.30am on 7th or 8th of September depending on the year group they will be in next year.

John Sheppard
Principal

The Hereford Academy Community Learning Centre

The Hereford Academy Community Learning Centre is our adult learning centre currently based in its own premises within the Oak Centre at the Academy but soon to move to the new building.

The Centre is open to members of the public and offers a range of mainly short learning activities ranging from ICT for beginners to those seeking to improve their skills through vocational and recreational courses. All our classes are

small and informal and many are free of charge. The Centre also has a drop in facility where you can use our computers free of charge to check your e-mails, shop or simply surf during the day or evening.

Celebration of Learning Event

Due to the move, the Centre will close on 30th June and reopen in its new home within the new school in September. To mark the end of our nine years in the Oak Centre, we held a

Celebration of Learning event on Wednesday 22nd June for all our past, current and prospective learners to share their memories and successes, say goodbye to the building and help us plan for the future.

For further information on free courses available through out drop in centre, or for details of our opening times please telephone us on 01432 342075, e-mail us at hacommunitylearning@yahoo.co.uk or just call in.

BTEC Dance Students

On Monday 20th June 2011 five BTEC Dance students from The Hereford Academy took part in 'FRESH', a dance show held at The Courtyard Theatre. The students taking part were: Leah Gould, Liah Hughes, Shannon Broom, Shannon Davies and Shannon James. Most of the students have never been part of such a big performance but they took to the stage like professionals. Throughout the day students took part in a variety of workshops ranging from 'Becoming a DJ' in which they learnt basic DJ skills, to 'Hip-

Hop' where they were taught about the history of 'Hip-Hop' as well as learning a basic routine. In the evening the students then performed in front of a 'full-house' in the main theatre. The girls were clearly nervous before they took to the stage but were able to overcome this and they performed exceptionally well. They were a credit to the academy.

Well Done Girls, I'm very proud of you!

Miss Cookson



The Learning Zone

This term we have been busily engaged in a variety of learning activities, ranging from students shadowing the Carnegie Book Award through to those working intensively to improve their numeracy levels before the end of the school year.

Specialist fiction such as the Barrington Stoke range of teen/young adult books has been used extensively as our literacy department focused this term on bringing up the reading ages of students whose reading ability is only just below their chronological age.

In Numeracy, the 'quick-fix' programme has proved as good as its name, causing students across Key Stage 3 to improve both their immediate ability, their confidence and their grasp of essential concepts. Recently, Post-Sixteen groups have been invited to the Learning Zone to brush up on their maths skills prior to their exam.



Work experience student Lauren Ruck has been particularly helpful working in the department, and staff would like to thank her for her professional support and input into the department. She will be much missed.

In ASDAN, staff and students have been preparing for an exhibition on Spain, which is currently on view in The Academy library. They have also been undertaking research into various other countries, including Slovakia, Poland, France and the USA.

If you wish to support your child in their reading, then encourage them to read regularly. This does not have to be traditional fiction, but anything, from internet pages about a favourite band to football magazines. For those who find it difficult to find suitable books for struggling readers, we would recommend specialist publishers such as Barrington Stoke or Rising Stars.

Barrington Stoke: <http://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk>

Rising Stars: <http://www.risingstars-uk.com>

Ofsted News

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are aware, we had an Ofsted Inspection on 18th and 19th May 2011 carried out by two of Her Majesty's Inspectors and two additional inspectors, and I am delighted to advise you that the inspectors were impressed by life at The Hereford Academy and judged us to be a Good school with outstanding features with the capacity for sustained improvement.

Inspectors felt that students made good progress, that teaching and learning was good and so was the curriculum. They were very impressed by the choices available for students and also with the care, guidance and support provided by The Academy.

A letter from the inspectors has gone directly to all students. However, should you wish to view a copy of the full Inspection Report please access our website on www.theherefordacademy.org.uk or telephone reception on [01432] 355213 to request a paper copy.

I am sure you will agree that it is pleasing to know that Her Majesty's Inspectors are confident that the work we are undertaking as a staff, governing body and local community is giving our students a good education and the right opportunities for a positive future.

Yours sincerely

John Sheppard
Principal

Ofsted Results

"This is a good school with outstanding features"

"Care, guidance and support are outstanding and the multi-agency work that supports students and their families is exceptional."

Inspectors received consistently positive comments from parents and carers during this inspection. One comment summed up the views of many: 'Since my son has been at The Hereford Academy I have been overjoyed with the outstanding pastoral and academic support he has been given.'

Staff and students at The Hereford Academy are celebrating after their latest 'Ofsted' Inspection graded the academy good, with outstanding features in many areas. The academy's capacity to improve further was graded as outstanding.

The academy based in the south of the city is about to move into a 'state of the art' £23 million new build Learning Centre in September 2011.

The academy was previously inspected in June 2010 when 'Ofsted' carried out a monitoring visit and reported that the academy was making 'good progress'

The 2011 report, based on a full inspection which took place in May, evaluates the efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of education and training in meeting the needs of learners. All education providers undergo 'Ofsted' inspections at least once every four to six years.

The Hereford Academy report recognises the considerable lengths that all staff at The Academy go to in order to develop students' academic achievements. It

also draws attention to the fact that 'the academy is particularly good at gathering and acting on students' views to continuously improve their experience at the academy and students highlight the atmosphere of mutual respect with all staff'.

Other highlights of the report include:-

Students enjoy coming to the academy.

The inspectors observed very good staff/student relationships.

The quality of teaching and learning is good.

The majority of lessons offer students a wide range of activities which challenge and motivate them.

Outstanding lessons were observed in English, Science, PE and BTEC Sport Studies.

Learners like the friendly and safe environment in which everyone is valued.

Progression rates within The Academy and to further study or employment are high.

Care, guidance and support for students are outstanding.

The Academy offers good value for money.

The Academy was also judged to be outstanding in its capacity to improve even further.

The Principal of The Academy Mr. John Sheppard stated that he was delighted with the report. He was particularly proud of the achievements of the students in The Academy and was committed to further improve learning opportunities for all in the South Wye area.

The Hereford Academy is an independent community learning provider.

The full inspection report can be viewed on the Ofsted website. www.ofsted.gov.uk

Year 12 Students improve the indoor environment for Residents at Charles Court Care Home

Students studying Level 3 Art and Design at the Hereford Academy Sixth Form College have been involved in an interesting collaboration with Local business Charles Court Care Home. Charles Court caters for the elderly and people with dementia. Individuals with dementia have difficulty with memory, concentration and logic and can often find it hard to communicate what they need and how they feel. Subsequently, they can often become frustrated and have intense feelings surrounding their confusion over life experiences. Reminiscence is known to be beneficial to dementia sufferers, so the Academy Art students have been researching local history in order to create a series of murals which will evoke fond memories for residents. They are planning a cricket Pavilion, a 1960's hairdressers and old red telephone boxes, amongst other scenes. They are currently working on the cricket scene (pictured) which is sure to conjure up memories of lazy Sunday afternoon picnics watching the match!



Melilla Trip

'Climate changing life, life changing climate'

In May half-term 6 students and 2 science teachers from The Hereford Academy boarded a plane and set off to sunny Melilla, a Spanish city on the border of Morocco. This trip was the last part of the Comenius project, set up by Mrs Thompson. The project has run for 2 years and has involved schools from 4 countries; Norway, Austria, Spain and England. The topic for the European project was climate change.

Whilst in Spain a fantastic cultural experience was had by all and we learnt a lot about the immigration problems from Morocco. The students took part in a range of exciting activities such as sailing and flamenco lessons. The students involved were Joseph Evans, Jamie King, Rebecca Smith, Megan Hemmington, Zoe Pemberton, Olivia Bufton.



Science Club Trip

Science club has once again had a fantastic year. The students have carried out all sorts of exciting experiments from dissecting rats to maggot racing, indoor fireworks to making sherbet. As always they have had lots of fun and learnt lots of Science along the way.

To learn a bit more about speed, acceleration and forces Science club took 30 students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 to Drayton Manor. Before they went the student's spent a session looking at the G-force of each roller coaster. Much fun was had by all!

Yr 8 Geography Trip to London

On Monday 4th July 2011, 25 Year 8 students set off for what is turning into an annual residential trip to London as part of their Geography studies. Once in London they began by taking a tour of some of the Natural History Museum, looking especially at our living planet and ecology. Following this we went to our overnight accommodation – the London School of Economics where students slept in the halls of residence before having dinner and then setting off for a walk along the south bank to the London Eye. This turned out to be one of the highlights of the trip with us having two private capsules to show us the sights of London – even those with a fear of heights enjoyed this flight!

The next day started early with breakfast and a walk over the Millenium Bridge towards St Paul's Cathedral for the more energetic amongst us and then we set off to the East End to see the site of the 2012 Olympics. This started with a little tour of the area where we also saw Olly Murs filmed one of his recent videos, finishing at the Greenway overlooking the Olympic Village – everyone was impressed with the finished stadium where we could actually see up to the athletics field!

Overall it was a really enjoyable trip and the Year 8's that went were a real credit to the school and already looking forward to next years.



On the London Eye

Outbase

"Outstanding!","Useful!","Terrific!","Brilliant!","Awesome!","Superb!" and "Excellent!..." just some of the words students use to describe their experience at "The Outbase", an educational project based on a working farm just outside of Hereford.

Every Monday, during the last 5 weeks of summer term, a group of eight students from Year 8 and Year 9 are taking part in a programme of activities designed to build personal confidence, practical skills and the ability to work as part of a team.

Typical activities include: animal care, bush craft, cookery and woodwork skills. Also on offer during the action-packed programme are sessions of archery, orienteering and slingshot paintballing.

Students are given individual feedback on their strengths and qualities by the Outbase Team Leader each week and encouraged to think about how these might be developed and contribute positively to their future life in the world of work.

A weekly follow-up session in school aims to apply some of the attitudes and skills learnt at "The Outbase" to life back at school.

Stonemason's Tale

Year 7 and 8 students have been attending after school workshops with the Carnival Arts Group. They were given a 'picnic' theme which they very imaginatively designed and started to create their costumes with fantastic energy. There were food creations such as a cup cake, strawberry and hot dog alongside two beautiful picnic covered dresses. The students paraded their creations during the Stonemason's Tale project on Wednesday 29h June as part



of a 450-strong procession of musicians, dancers, artists and amazing carnival structures through Hereford High Town and onto the Cathedral Close. They were not the only Hereford Academy students to take part on the day; percussion musicians were also drumming their way through the procession.



Walk down memory lane

The Hereford Academy Student Council have decided they would like to celebrate moving to the new school by collecting memories that people have of the school on its current site. The project will involve the Student Council collecting memories from Haywood High, Wyebridge Sports College and The Hereford Academy. They welcome memories in a number of different forms including written statements, photos of the building/students/staff, and awards or certificates.

The Council hopes to combine all of the collected items to produce a scrapbook which will then hopefully be transformed into a large artwork collage. Both of these creations will then be placed in the new school building's foyer for visitors to view.

Any memories or items will be greatly received; there are three methods in which we can accept items: by post addressed to Vicky Kench at The Hereford Academy, Stanberrow Road, HR2 7NG, by personally handing in at the school and lastly, if you can scan in any photos or have a written memory you can email them to vkench@theherefordacademy.org.uk

This is the end of an era for the school and we would love to be able to celebrate the past years but in order to do that we need your help!

Thank you

The Hereford Academy Student Council

A poster with a purple and green background. At the top, there are logos for The Hereford Academy, Wyebridge Sports College, and a red tree logo. The main text reads "TAKE A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE" in large, green, outlined letters. Below this, there is a green box with white text that says: "The Hereford Academy Student Council would like to celebrate moving to the new school by collecting past memories of Haywood High, Wyebridge Sports College and The Hereford Academy. Any memories collected will be used to create a scrap book and hopefully a collage. If you would like to help please send your memories to us in the form of: - Written statements - Photos of the building/students/staff - Awards or certificates. This is the end of an era for the school and we would love to be able to celebrate the past years and in order to do that we need your help!" At the bottom, there is a green box with white text that says: "For more information on this subject or to send your contribution's Please contact; Vicky Kench , Extended School Co-ordinator Email: vkench@theherefordacademy.org.uk Tel: 01432 364869 Post: Stanberrow Road, Hereford, HR2 7NG"

The move of a thousand miles begins with a single step

On the 15th July 2011 Mr J Sheppard, Principal of the Hereford Academy will step over the threshold and take possession of the keys of the £23 million new build academy. The building, which is now nearing final completion, will be ready for Staff on the 18th July and for Students on the 7th September 2011.

“This building will be **the most up to date, innovative school in Herefordshire**” said Mr Sheppard. “It will also support our students in realising their full potential in all aspects of their school development.”

The new academy building will have state of the art ICT technological equipment/features which will provide students and staff with opportunities to extend learning experiences for the whole of the South Wye area.

The wider community will benefit greatly from the longer opening hours of the new academy building. Both day and evening adult learning classes are scheduled to be held at the academy offering courses such as Computer Skills, Numeracy and Literacy, Parenting Classes and the opportunity to sit both GCSE and BTEC qualifications in a variety of subjects.



Mathematics

United Kingdom Mathematics Trust

The UKMT organises national mathematics competitions and other mathematical enrichment activities for 11-18 year old UK school pupils.

In May, several Year 7 and 8 students took part in the Junior UK maths challenge. There were six Silver Awards and 9 Bronze Awards. The best in school for this challenge was Charlotte Rowe in Year 8.

Millenium Mathematics Project

Following the success of last year's visit, colleagues from Cambridge University returned to the Academy on 12th April to run the 'Hands on Maths Road Show'. The aim is to support maths education and promote development of mathematical skills and understanding, particularly through enrichment activities. Parents can also become involved in solving

puzzles with students by visiting the website www.nrich.co.uk.

With the Olympics 2012 not very far away Cambridge University have also developed an exciting new project developing online resources exploring maths through the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Visit www.Millennium-maths-project.co.uk for further details.

Swansea University

Many students in Year 11 took up the exciting opportunity to visit Swansea University from Friday 8th April until Sunday 10th April where they attended revision classes to help prepare for the Summer examinations.

Numeracy at home

Focus for the summer term – multiplication tables. Some useful websites are listed below.

www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/numbers/.../timestables/game.shtml
www.mathsisfun.com/timestable/html
www.teachingtables.co.uk



Tangrams – not so easy



Perseverance with the cubes

Year 7 Science Trip

The whole of Year 7 went on a trip to 'Bristol', a science and discovery centre, on June 23rd 2011. Students were able to learn about all aspects of Science in a fun and interactive way. There were opportunities to go into a large model womb, walk through a tornado, make giant soap bubbles, and produce video animations along with a whole load of other fun and interesting activities. All of the students enjoyed their day out and made the most of the amazing learning opportunities.



Musical Showcase

The Hereford Academy Year 7 through to Year 13 Students took part in a 'Music Showcase' on Thursday 23rd June 2011. The show consisted of a combination of music including pieces that the Year 10 students have worked on this year and performances of music studied during extra-curricular activities and instrumental lessons. The evening also gave students the opportunity to put other skills to use, such as lighting and sound engineering, all learnt during their studies at the academy. Performances ranged from beginners through to advanced musicians and made use of genres from rock, pop and blues amongst others.

Polish Voices: Echoes from Foxley Camp

Polish Voices: Echoes of Foxley Camp is a photography exhibition that is currently on show at the Hereford Museum and Gallery. It involved three Hereford Academy students, Nikki Bake, Ollie Grove and Jamie Kelly and their tutor Nick Davis meeting some former residents of the camp and hearing their own stories and experiences from their childhoods.

As well as the former residents coming to meet the students, some of the Polish students from the school got to listen to the stories and shared some of their own experiences about living in a different country and how they have adjusted in recent years.

An older gentleman, Stazia's father, was originally in the Polish army and came into the school with his walking stick, only it turned out that it had a blade on the end of it! These were issued to all the army personnel who were working in the mountains and today he uses it as a walking stick.

It was fantastic to see pictures taken by Barbara's father, who was an amateur photographer in the camp during the



1950s. They were kind enough to let the students borrow them to make copies of and these are now on display next to the students' work in the gallery.

Afterwards, they arranged to meet the former residents at Foxley Camp itself to take some photos and have a walk around the camp. The day was perfect and the residents were very emotional to see the site after some 60 years. They still remembered where their living quarters were, though they have long since been demolished. You could see a few photos in the exhibition of the residents standing on the patch on which they lived.



The exhibition ran until June 25th and has received some extremely positive reviews since it opened. Pictured are Nikki, Ollie and Nick with their work.



Year 11 Leavers Prom

3 Counties Hotel - 30 June 2011

The current Year 11 students held their 'Leavers Prom' at The Three Counties Hotel on Belmont Road on Thursday 30th June 2011 at 6.30pm.

As with other years, students had made a fantastic effort, the girls with their dresses and the boys with their DJs.

Even before the evening started, parents and fellow students of different year groups congregated on the hotel drive to witness the arrival of the Belles and Beaus of the ball. This year saw some fantastic modes of transport for the students' arrival, including a horse and carriage, an Audi R8, a Rolls Royce Silver Shadow, a student-driven buggy racer and an American Sheriff's car, complete with loudspeaker and siren.



The evening began with non-alcoholic punch on arrival and official photographs taken in the Gloucester Suite. Students sat down to dine at 8pm in the Hereford Suite and the disco started at 9.30pm. Awards were voted for during the meal and were later presented to Joshua Loughman 'Most Likely to be Famous, Male' and 'Most Original Arrival, Male', Sophie Morgan 'Most Original Arrival, Female', Benson Williams 'Best Dressed, Male', Jade Short 'Best Dressed, Female' and Zoe Loughman 'Most Likely to be Famous, Female'.

Mr Sheppard presented Mrs Tina Probert with a bouquet of flowers for her help and support and a bouquet was also presented to Miss Rachel Smedley for organising this year's Prom.

Who Killed Cock Robin?

The answer - Nobody killed Cock Robin!

Wednesday 29th June. A night of theatrical excellence from the Year 9 Performing Arts group at The Academy left the audience wanting more as the unusual and twisting tale of a missing Bridegroom unfolded.

The play, written by Sue Gordon, is set in a court room where it is believed that 'Poor Old Cock Robin' has been murdered. A variety of colourful characters give testimony as to what they believed happened on the fateful night. However, all is not as it seems in the sleepy Hamlet of Little Flapping where the play is set and we find a more sinister reason behind the disappearance of Cock Robin, leaving all attending Avian Crown Court flabbergasted.

Students provided high class performances and were utterly focused in performing and producing the play, which is surely the last we will see in the current Academy building. Excitement is building, however, for the move into the new build and indeed into the new purpose built and thoroughly modern theatre facilities, which will allow these students and many more to further develop their performing talents.

An exciting and promising future of Performing Arts at The Academy awaits!

Important Dates

Parents/Carers/Students please note the following dates for your diaries:-

Wednesday 13th July

Celebration Evening

Thursday 14th July

Last day of Summer Term

Thursday 25th August

Year 11 Students may collect Examination Results from the new building [further details to follow]

Wednesday 7th September

First day of autumn term for new intake Year 7 students and Year 11 students

Thursday 8th September

First day of autumn term for Years 8, 9 & 10 Students

Saturday 10th September

Community Open Day 10.00 am – 1.00 pm

Monday 19th September

Post 16 Students return