

THE HEREFORD ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



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**JULY 2010
Issue 25**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the final term of the academic year 2009-10 draws to a close, the examination season for Year 11 is complete and results are awaited in August with eager anticipation.

Our thoughts now turn to the Celebration Evening for Years 7 to 10, when we will be rewarding students hard work and achievement across the year groups for such things as 100% attendance, subject achievements and success and contribution to school activities. Our Guest Speaker for the evening will be the adventurer, Tori James, who I am sure will have some exciting stories to tell, being the youngest British and first Welsh woman to climb Mount Everest.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank students, parents and staff for their continued support in ensuring our collective focus on greater aspiration and better results. All surveys show that students who have parents who show support and interest in their child's education do better, so your sustained commitment really does matter.

Our recent OFSTED Inspection in June highlighted our continuing improvement and we should all be happy to celebrate this achievement, with particular comments from the HMI's report as follows:

- Students trust that the staff will act on their views and feel there have been significant improvements introduced by the Principal and leadership team.
- Good or better teaching was seen in English, mathematics and the academy specialisms of science, sport and health.
- The leadership team has embedded ambition and driven improvement.
- The inspector's main judgement is that 'the academy has made **good progress** towards raising standards'.

Recognition from outside parties gives us confidence that we are approaching our challenges in the best way possible for the benefit of all our students and community.

Attendance continues to improve with 7MCW being the highest attending form, thereby winning a trip to the Three Counties Show at Malvern in June. Ellie Morris was the lucky student who won the iPod Nano from the attendance prize draw for the Spring term. As a further incentive to lift attendance in all year groups there will be a draw at the end of the summer term in which all students who have attained 100% attendance are entered and one student per year group will receive £100.00.

As you will be able to see, the building work is progressing well now. Various curriculum area staff have commenced visits to the site and an initial session has been organised this term for staff to prepare for the transition. It is hoped that during the course of the next academic year arrangements can be made for members of the community to visit the site to see how things are progressing. The target for students moving into the building remains September 2011 and very special thanks are extended to our local residents for their patience with regard to any inconvenience these works may cause.

The academy welcomed students and parents from our primary feeders on 22nd June to New Intake Evening and Year 6 students to our New Intake Day on 24th June. This was an opportunity for them to familiarise themselves with our surroundings and facilities and to meet staff. Both occasions were very well supported and we look forward to 158 Year 6 students joining us in September when school commences at 8.30 am on Monday, 6th September 2010.

Have an enjoyable and safe summer break. We look forward to seeing you all at the start of the autumn term.

John Sheppard Principal

Community Fun Day

On Saturday 12th June The Hereford Academy held their summer Community Fun Day. With the weather fine and sunny the day was packed with fun activities for all ages. Keeping with a multi-cultural feel and mindful that England were playing their first match in the World Cup that evening a number of the activities had an African theme. There was a penalty shoot out with plenty of England goodies as prizes, African Drumming and our Chef cooked a number of dishes during his cooking demonstrations including Paella, Chinese Stir Fry and Bobotie, the national dish of South Africa which is a delicious mixture of curried meat and fruit topped with an egg custard. Another popular activity was pizza making, with everyone making their own dough, choosing their toppings and then taking their pizza home.

Our Science Department put on a number of activities including 'Make your own Bouncy Ball', making kaleidoscopes and setting off 'Cola' and 'Mentos' fountains throughout the day. For those who wanted some pampering there were free manicures, massages and colour consultations or for those feeling more energetic they could take part in Yoga, Bollywood Dancing or Boxercise taster sessions.



Willmott Dixon, who are building the new academy, had a display with a model of the new build and also ran a bricklaying competition which proved very popular with lots of the children.

Other activities available were Welsh Language tasters and poetry workshops run by 'Spoz', Birmingham's poet laureate. You could make your own embellished purse in our textile department and also have a go at juggling, Diablo, stilt walking and plate spinning during the circus skills workshops which ran throughout the day. West Mercia Police were present most of the day with a display promoting their Safer and Secure homes initiative and the PCT's Health Trainers were on hand throughout the day offering advice and support for those wanting to get fit and healthy for the summer.

The day was very well attended and we hope everyone who came enjoyed the wide range of activities on offer. Some of the feedback on the day included, 'It was great to see the kids having fun', 'Lovely to see all the community working together' and 'The thing I enjoyed most about the day was being able to try everything and that there was such a variety of activities'.

We would like to thank all the people who ran an activity and all money raised on the day is going to Noah's Ark Trust which offers bereavement support to children and families in Hereford and Worcester.



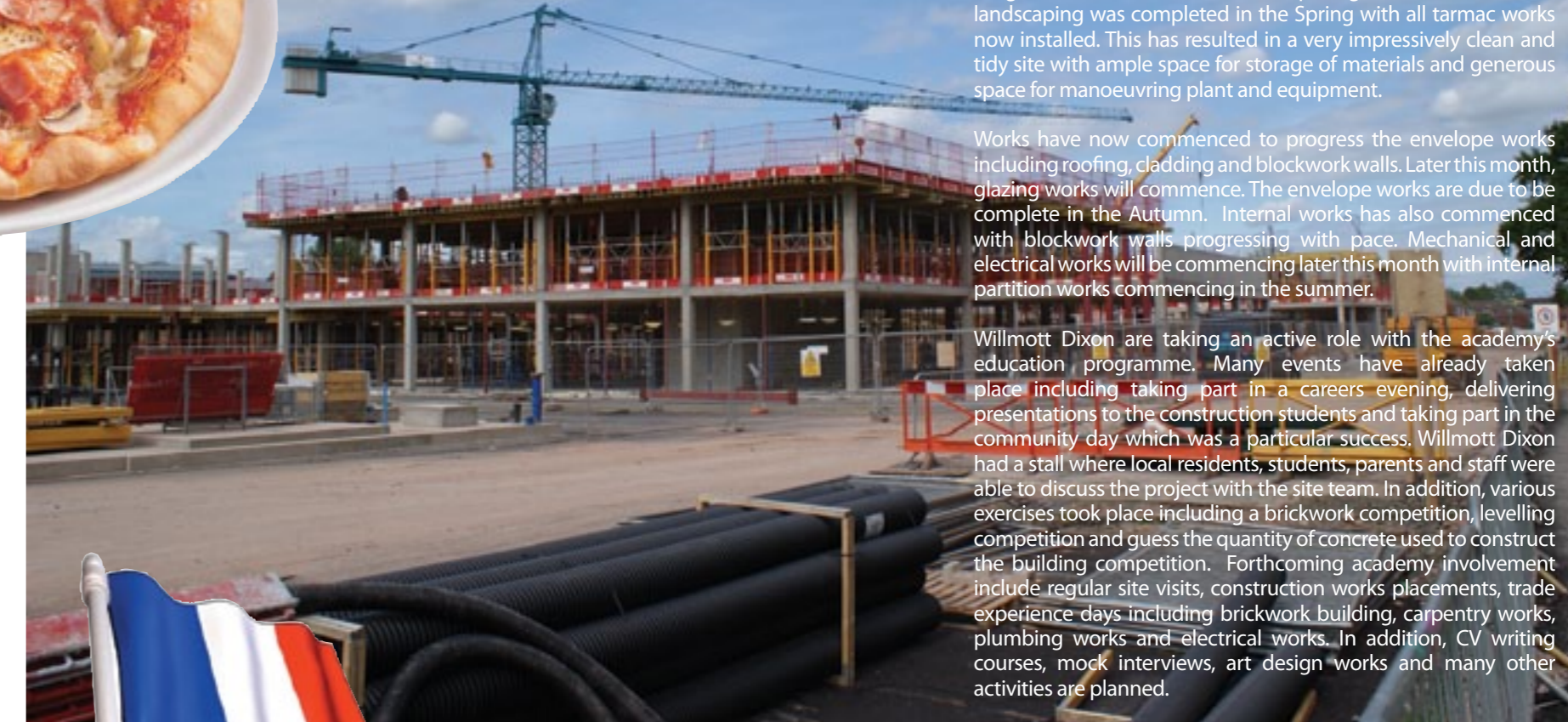
HEREFORD ACADEMY NEW BUILD PROJECT

The Hereford Academy site is progressing very quickly and exactly to programme with major elements of the works visibly progressing daily. The concrete frame works which commenced in March will be complete this month. The steel frame element of the works commenced last week and will be complete by late July.

All ground works other than final paving, street furniture and landscaping was completed in the Spring with all tarmac works now installed. This has resulted in a very impressively clean and tidy site with ample space for storage of materials and generous space for manoeuvring plant and equipment.

Works have now commenced to progress the envelope works including roofing, cladding and blockwork walls. Later this month, glazing works will commence. The envelope works are due to be complete in the Autumn. Internal works have also commenced with blockwork walls progressing with pace. Mechanical and electrical works will be commencing later this month with internal partition works commencing in the summer.

Willmott Dixon are taking an active role with the academy's education programme. Many events have already taken place including taking part in a careers evening, delivering presentations to the construction students and taking part in the community day which was a particular success. Willmott Dixon had a stall where local residents, students, parents and staff were able to discuss the project with the site team. In addition, various exercises took place including a brickwork competition, levelling competition and guess the quantity of concrete used to construct the building competition. Forthcoming academy involvement include regular site visits, construction works placements, trade experience days including brickwork building, carpentry works, plumbing works and electrical works. In addition, CV writing courses, mock interviews, art design works and many other activities are planned.



YA Trip to France

During the week of the 26th June - 4th July 34 students and 5 members of staff travelled to the Ardeche in Southern France for a week of water sports activities on the Mediterranean Sea.

The party left Hereford on Saturday at 10am and make the 24 hour journey by coach to Southern France. They then spent 3 days camping on the Ardeche River and then spent a further 3 days in log cabins next to the Med.

Look out for photographs and reports in the next newsletter.

Science Club

In our recent Science club, which takes place after school on Thursdays, we have undertaken lots of different activities and have had an average attendance of 30 - 40 students taking part.

Here are some of the fun and exciting things that we have done over the last half term:

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| Frog dissection | Chip pan fire |
| Exploding popcorn | Rainbow layered liquids |
| Lava lamps | Making banners |



Kielder Challenge 2010

The Kielder Challenge is a competition that The Hereford Academy enter every year and which takes place at Queenswood. The team must consist of 4 Year 10 students and 4 students from Key Stage 3.

The event is designed to test the groups problem solving abilities, teamwork and communication skills. This is done by the group solving various tasks that have been set up around the wood with a judge marking the group on how well they solve the problem.

During the course of the day the team have to complete 5 challenges. This year The Hereford Academy team did very well and were a credit to the academy, coming a creditable 4th overall. Well done!



Bringing Maths to Life

In May, Year 7 and 8 students were treated to a visit from the Millennium Maths Project and The Enigma Project both run by staff from Cambridge University.

Year 7 took part in the Hands on Maths Roadshow which enabled students to solve problems through logical thinking. Many of the tasks at first looked simple but students soon found out they had to break down tasks and discuss solutions to become successful. Great fun was had by staff and students alike.

Year 8 had a special treat when they took part in a code breaking day. James Grimes from Cambridge University visited with one of the few remaining original Enigma Code breaking machines. He gave a talk on the history of code breaking from the days of the Spartans and allowed students to see up close this amazing code breaking machine. Students and staff could then have a go at breaking some codes using various methods.



The project was fun, I had a great time and solved four puzzles"

On Wednesday 19th May the Year 12 forensics team went to solve a crime at a house on Leek Road, Stoke on Trent. When they got there it turned out that two crimes had been committed in separate parts of the house.

In response to the original call PC 1131 Loach had attended the premises at 11pm the previous evening following an anonymous 999 call reporting a disturbance involving "sounds of banging and shouting". PC Loach found the door to the premises open with signs of forced entry. On checking the premises PC Loach found a male in his mid-thirties on the floor of the bathroom. The man had a severe head wound and paramedics were called. The man was taken to hospital and is reported to be in a serious condition. The premises were secured at approximately 1am. The victim had not been identified. The current occupants of the house had also not been identified.

Meanwhile downstairs on further investigation of the house another crime had been committed. A wounded female had been found in the living room and paramedics had found the body was heavily bruised and had received a head wound. Efforts to resuscitate were abandoned after 5 minutes and



Murder House Mysteries!

she was declared dead. The body was recovered and the premises secured. A jewellery box was subsequently found close-by. The lock had been forced and the contents were missing. A neighbour identified the box as identical to one owned by a Mrs Johnson and now missing.

Both of these serious crimes needed detailed forensic investigations to be carried out; this fell to Amber Preece, Nicky Bate and Lucasz Czarniecki in the case of the bathroom attack whilst the murder in the living room was investigated by Andy Smith, Anton Williams and Anthony Dentist. Both teams collected a wide range of evidence including blood, fingerprints and drug materials amongst others. All of this evidence was taken back to the lab and processed using state of the art facilities such as specialist chromatography and DNA profiling to ultimately provide the evidence for the police to identify the most likely suspects.

The "murder house" is part of the Forensic Science department of the University of Staffordshire with whom the Hereford Academy Science department work closely providing this essential experience.



End of Year Science Trips

As part of our next Science Week we took the whole of Year 7 and 8 on two exciting trips to the interactive science museums "At-Bristol" and "Thinktank, Birmingham" for free! The trips were a great opportunity for the children to explore science in a fun and engaging way outside of their normal school activities.

At- Bristol: Year 7
With over 300 hands-on exhibits to explore, live shows and a Planetarium, At-Bristol is one of the UK's biggest and most exciting interactive science centres.

The Year 7 students experienced the planetarium and enjoyed stunning vistas of the night sky, they found out how to spot seasonal constellations and discovered awe-inspiring Science behind the stars.

Thinktank: Year 8
Thinktank offered the children a fun and fascinating visit and a chance to let their imagination run free as they journeyed through Birmingham's past; explored how scientific discoveries and technological innovations impact on everyday lives and anticipated the future of space exploration. The Year 8 students also experienced the amazing IMAX cinema and are viewed the Wild Safari in 3D. It was a giant screen adventure in search of the most dangerous and spectacular animals in south Africa

Visit by Marlbrook Primary

As part of the Science department's primary liaison program, the Year 5 students from Marlbrook Primary School took part in afternoon 'taster' sessions with Mr Weeks.

- During the sessions they:
- successfully cracked James Bond's secret code words
 - described what forces are and what they can do... with just a piece of scrap paper
 - modelled the three states of matter... by showing off their dancing skills
 - investigated heat transfer... by using Bunsen burners and boiling salty water

The students were a credit to Marlbrook, rising to every challenge put before them and demonstrating excellent team work and behaviour.



UK Junior Maths Challenge

This year, for the first time, The Hereford Academy was one of 3770 schools taking part in the UK Junior Maths Challenge. This is a national competition and attracts around 250,000 students every year.

The best performing 40% of students receive a certificate; either bronze, silver or gold, plus a Best in School award. Out of the 30 Year 7 and 8 students who entered, 13 were awarded certificates with 2 achieving gold. The academy is delighted with these results and hopes to enter more students next year



Studio Visit and Tour

Several of our Post 16 students studying Business and Music Studies went on a trip to Birmingham in April, with one group looking at retailing and the delivery of customer service and the other taking a behind the scenes look at how the BBC News programme Midlands Today is produced and broadcast.

The Business Studies group experienced the customer service in the various stores within the Bullring and city centre, while the Music studies group sampled the interactive displays in the BBC Midlands Today section. This found Olly Grove, Andy Smith and Anton Williams 'presenting the news' and weather as well as meeting a Darlik! We were lucky enough to watch the editing of various news stories before sitting in the Gallery where the programme is produced and put 'on air'. After the news had been broadcast, we were invited into the studio to meet Suzanne Virdee and sit on the famous red sofa, and actually see what the presenter sees when they are on air.

The students had an equally good time sampling the customer services in various stores, ranging from a discounter, a multiple high street chain, a department store and an exclusive boutique.

On our way back to catch the train Olly spotted Emile Heskey, Aston Villa and England footballer and after managing to catch up with him, Emile kindly gave permission for the boys to have their photo taken with him, which rounded off the day nicely.

Cricket at the Academy

Cricket at The Hereford Academy has become an integral part of the school curriculum with students in Year 7 taking part in a HOWZAT unit as part of their Heroes Project Day. Cricket is taught throughout Key Stages 3 and 4 Physical Education lessons as part of our existing opponents. Extra-Curricular cricket provides students with an opportunity to develop their skills by following a structured winter programme and participating in training and fixtures during the summer term. This has led to a number of students throughout the school gaining County representative honours and improving skills in Herefordshire County Development squads.

The academy is also developing links with local clubs, including Marden Cricket Club, who provide further opportunities for students to develop their understanding and knowledge of the game by competing in club cricket.

The highlight of the cricketing season at the academy is the annual 'H'ashes' match which sees the 1st XI take on a staff team. This occasion is much anticipated and this year saw the staff triumph by only 11 runs!



Delivered by the Youth Sport Trust, Lloyds TSB National School Sport Week is a week-long sporting celebration for primary and secondary schools this year from 24th June – 2nd July. Last year more than 10,500 schools and three million children took part. 2010 promises to be even bigger and better.

Registered schools are given all the resources they need to generate interest and activities for students of all ages. It not only helps fulfill school objectives for PE and Sport but can be used across the curriculum to create excitement around the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

At The Hereford Academy we are committed to improving sports participation and the well being of our students. This year we funded the whole of Year 8 to take part in a teambuilding activity at Oakerwood Outdoor Centre on Thursday 24th June. Throughout the day students took part in various sporting activities taking place at breaktime, lunchtime and after school.



H'ashes Match Report

With England finding it easy against Bangladesh a much more exciting cricket game took place, the 2010 H'ashes which sees students take on the Staff! The staff batted first and Mr Griffin and Mr Twigg proved an inspirational opening partnership accelerating the score to 66 before Mr Griffin was caught in the deep of the bowling of Steven Dyer for 22 runs. Mr Twigg followed soon after and a collapse in the score to 71 for 3 was caused by Mr Ashton running out Mr Spencer!

More wickets followed as the students took control of the game seeing Mr Thorley bowled by Dyer for 1 and Mr Ashton caught superbly in outfield by Macaulay Apperley off the bowling of Ryan Spragg. Spragg also accounted for Mr Tudor, bowling him out for 2 before some hard hitting by Mr Carter gave the staff score a more respectable feel. Mr Carter was eventually bowled by Sean Weaver for 17 runs, a score including four 4s as he refused to run the quick singles that were on offer!

This brought Mrs Hossack to the crease who was comically out by hitting her own wickets when swinging the bat back attempting to smash the ball into the next field! In total the staff scored 131.

The student reply got off to a fantastic start, also reaching 66 runs before Sean Weaver had to retire on 25 runs. Tim Rushforth also retired on 9 having batted the students into a strong position.

This brought Ryan Davey and Josh Rees to the crease who batted well under strong pressure from the staff, desperate to get a wicket! This was provided by Mr Tudor who had Rees caught in the outfield and then followed a moment to never forget. In their desperation the staff turned to Mrs Hossack's golden arm and she accounted for Macaulay Apperley, caught out playing his preferred sweep shot.

Ryan Davey retired on 14 runs and a reluctant Mr Spencer was brought on to bowl and he provided the highlight of the match, dismissing Ryan Spragg and Dan Mills in consecutive balls. As the game drew to a close Mr Twigg bowled the final over of the game with the students requiring 14 to win. The students put up an excellent effort with Rhys Holder finishing on 7 not out but, on the last ball of the game with 7 slips in place, Mr Twigg accounted for Steve Dyer hitting the top of off stump with the students 12 runs adrift and the H'ashes were retained by the staff.

