



Students Take On 'The Dragons'



Winning students and business leaders in Academy Dragons' Den competition

More than 100 Year 7 and 8 students from The Skinners' Kent Academy competed to become The Academy's top entrepreneurs in a Dragons' Den style business challenge. The day was designed to develop students' individual skills and encourage entrepreneurship.

Innovative students formed mini companies and worked in groups of five to produce an idea for a product

that would make our everyday lives a little better. During the morning they received expert advice from local companies including AXA PPP Healthcare. All the teams worked really well on their products with many producing models and posters to promote their work. The best 8 were selected to the final round to present their ideas to the Dragons, including one of the country's most successful entrepreneurs, Sir Keith

Mills. Their ideas ranged from: a mattress with a built in alarm that forms a lump to push late sleepers out of bed, a recycling robot that can detect if the waste is metal, paper or plastic, a lunchbox that can heat up snacks for a warm packed lunch and a one stop shop for any home repair requirements.

After a few tense minutes **HEMOCARE** the one stop shop for home repairs were declared the winners. The team, made up of five Year 7 boys, was delighted.

The "Dragons" were: Sir Keith Mills – founder of Air Miles and the Nectar Card and the Vice Chairman of the London Olympic Organising Committee, Peter Reeves the MD of Arena Pursuits, Scott Sumner the MD of Olivers Mills, Sue Rogers the Director of BAMA and Christine Smith the MD of Drusilla's Park.

The event was opened and closed by Daryl Jones who has responsibility for local economic development at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and arranged in association with the Work Related Learning team at Connexions Kent.

Kent Teacher of the Year



Mrs Daniells, Teacher of the Year

Mrs Daniells, Academy teacher and member of the Senior Leadership Team, has been awarded Kent Secondary Teacher of the Year at the Kent Messenger Teaching Awards. The awards were started to mark the vital contribution that teaching staff make to our community and to recognise the expertise and dedication that is the hallmark of an outstanding teacher. The event is organised by the KM Group and a number of important community partners. Mrs Daniells, who was nominated by colleagues and chosen by a panel of judges, said: "I am delighted by this award and also very humbled. There are lots of great teachers working hard every day to provide the best education."

ON THE SPOT

Year 8 Student Reporters
Francesca Drewett and Katie
Gough interview the county's
finest.

Simon Everson is the Head of
Skinners' School - the main
sponsor of The Skinners' Kent
Academy.



Your website says your supportive, friendly environment produces well qualified and also well-informed, reflective world citizens.

What else do you believe produces these qualities in all students?

The way students treat each other is very important. Also the way different schools work alongside each other and students all come together. For example we work with The Skinners' Kent Academy and Oakley School.

In 2009/10 your GCSE pass rate was 100%. Why do you think your school was so successful?

We've got good boys who work hard to prepare for exams. I expect them to do well and I'm proud of their achievements. I am also very proud of the students at the Academy, their results last year were absolutely brilliant.

Why did The Skinners' School choose to sponsor the Academy?

The boys at Skinners' School benefit from the selective system. However, at the old High School I could see the students were having a different experience. I could see the students had so much potential so I thought let's do what we say and come together to make it a better school and a better town. We have been really lucky with the Principal, Sian Carr, and the Senior Leadership Team, and now that dream is coming true.

What are the characteristics that link the five Skinners' Schools together?

The Skinners' Company links the five schools. It has a long history going back in time to the start of London and that kind of history is important. The Skinners' Company also provides good governors and does a lot of charity work which underlies the supportive ethos of all the schools.

When you were at school did you stick to the rules or break them? Seeing now the tables have turned and the student has become the master.

I was naughty, but I never got caught, I was even made Head Boy. I think it helps to have been a bit naughty because I know all the tricks.

What is your favourite book?

I love so many books it is hard to choose. Two of my favourites are Silas Marner by George Eliot and Blood Meridian by Cormac McCarthy.

And your favourite films?

The Big Lebowski and Casablanca.

PATHWAY TO INDEPENDENCE

Academy Subject Awards

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN DRAMA

Tyler Parker
Sam Small
Jack Roberts

OUTSTANDING EFFORT IN DRAMA

Rhys Morling-Chamberlain
Sophie Cooper
Ashlee Malyon
Jordan Wilson
Katie Gough
Elizabeth Baldry
Nikki Hopp'e
Harriet Smith-Fellows



congratulations

Student Review Holly Cheesman, Year 9

PRIVATE PEACEFUL AT THE HAWTH THEATRE, CRAWLEY



'Private Peaceful' was an emotional story based around the life of a family during the First World War. The story showed how this particular family were torn apart by the tragic consequences of war. It described the experiences of a soldier called Tommo, who lived with the guilt of believing he was responsible for his father's death.

I was sitting in the Hawth Theatre, patiently waiting for the play to begin and when it did, I was far from disappointed! It was really interesting and I never got restless. When I realised it was a monologue, I was not that pleased. However, throughout the play, I found myself getting more and more involved.

The actor was first-class! He made it clear which character he was and where he was at all times by changing the tone of his voice. I thought the costumes were a little dull, though they did fit in well with the setting and time. Many people in my class were saying the staging was uneventful, but I thought it was fantastic. I loved the way they used the flexibility of the bed because it was also used to form part of the trench. The screen at the back of the stage could have shown moving images as it was just plain white, which was not very effective.

Altogether, I really liked the adaptation of Private Peaceful; it was interesting and in parts, funny. If I were to present this story I wouldn't change it; I would keep it as a monologue, I thought it was brilliant!

VivoMiles

With the upcoming 'Passport to...' events, students should be frantically collecting their vivos to earn the 200 needed for the events. Currently, there are 86 students who are now Gold club members, and who already have 200 or more vivos. Well done! There are over 60 students who are within 30 vivos of reaching the Gold club as well. All students should perhaps aspire to the 347 vivos currently earned by our 'vivo champion', Sasha Beene in Year 11.

Forensic Day Is A Great Success



Year 9 investigate hair follicles and fingerprints in a day of crime detection and court room drama.

On Tuesday 5th April Year 9 students had an insight into the world of Forensic Science. Throughout the day students were taught the essential skills and techniques used in the fight against crime. Dressed in white protective clothing they spent enjoyable hours learning about fingerprinting and collecting and analyzing evidence to solve crimes.

A crime scene was mocked up for them to determine the guilty suspect and solve the case, which was brought to a courtroom at the end of the day.

The Education Business Partnership helped to run the event. Executive Director Anne McNulty said: "we'd like to pass on our thanks and congratulations to the students

and teachers involved in this exciting challenge. The students were outstanding and the business presenters involved were hugely impressed by the high standard of work and how well each group functioned as a team."

Congratulations go to: **Bahar Kaplan, Charlie Brooker, Charlotte Chappell and Amelia Everett** who successfully completed their mission with some very informative and accurate data.



Academy students analysing fingerprints

Warming Up

70 female students and staff have entered The Race For Life in Dunorlan Park on 12th June, making the Academy the second largest group to be taking part. After two training sessions at the Academy, run by Tunbridge Wells running group Sarah's Runners, everyone is really looking forward to the big day. Good luck to everyone involved!



Academy students training with Sarah's Runners

Students

Academy Advocates

A growing number of students have been developing their presentation skills through a series of meetings with parents of prospective Year 5 students at our local primary schools.

Joshua Boakes, Fruzanne Weller, Sam Wheeler and Jamie Wilde (all Year 7) and **Yasmeen Soudani and Marcus Westhuizen** (both Year 10) have visited Bidborough, St James', St Marks and Pembury Primary Schools to talk about their experiences at the Academy and give parents a flavour of the opportunities on offer.

Joshua Boakes said: "I feel more part of my school, it's a good way to contribute and presenting is actually really good fun."

A big thank you to all the students for representing the Academy with skill and confidence, embodying the spirit of the Academy motto "Pride in our Success."



Student Advocates

Exams

Excellent Progress

A busy examination season has begun at the Academy. All students in Key Stage 3 completed a very successful examination week that saw excellent attendance in all subjects. Well done everyone! Key Stage 4 students are now in the middle of Public Examinations. They have frequently taken advantage of extra revision sessions in all subjects in an attempt to boost their final grades. Best of luck!

Science & Engineering



Crab nebula - a cloud of dust and gas in outer space

Did you know? Scientists from across the world are working together to build the globe's largest radio telescope and it's called **SKA!** The Square Kilometre Array will be made of thousands of receptors linked together across an area the size of a continent and it will be powerful enough to explore the universe looking for signs of life and finding out how black holes are formed.

SPORT REPORT

Sam Wheeler, Year 7, Academy Sports Correspondent



During the last term at The Academy, there have been some great events. At the end of term four there was a boxing fitness fun session, and a group of students were lucky enough to be invited to attend. It was a good event and we got to see how a boxing coach instructs and in my opinion **"they shout a lot"**, but it was a fun and exciting event and everyone who attended really enjoyed it.

Week 2 of the new term was test week and each afternoon we had a fun activity. We did lots of different sports and it was a great way to chill out in the afternoon after a hard morning of tests.

This term in sport we have started playing rounders, sadly this year the local schools' rounders league is only for girls, but some of the boys suggested the boys wear a wig or grow their hair long so they could participate!! The girls in Year 9 have won many of their rounders games and everyone has been very proud of their achievements in the

league which has put Skinner's Kent Academy on the sporting map.

Next term we are starting summer athletics training ready for sports day, which will include sprinting and the relay along with other disciplines. Sports Day is always a great occasion on the school sporting calendar and there will be lots of serious competition going on during the events.

It's been a great term for sport - thanks to our brilliant teachers - Mr Tompkins, Mr Topliss and Mrs Nichollson.



Academy CALENDAR

- Jun 12** Race for Life, Dunorlan Park
- Jun 28** Academy Sports Day
- Jun 29** Reserve Academy Sports Day
- Jun 30** Academy Prize Giving
- Jul 4-8** Year 10 Work Experience
- Jul 5** Primary Sports Tournament
- Jul 6,7** Year 6 Academy Induction
- Jul 7** Year 6 Parents Academy induction Evening
- Jul 14** Year 10,11 Prom

Year 7-9 Choir performance at Skinners' Hall music and arts exhibition.

Students' last day of term
- Jul 15, 18,19** Staff INSET days
- Jul 19** Reports sent home
- Aug 25** GCSE results morning



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