



## ROARING SUCCESS

On 27th September over 600 prospective parents and students attended the Academy Open Evening visiting each of our faculty areas; meeting teachers, students, parents and governors to get a flavour of Academy life.

Students from all year groups played a vital part in the evening; greeting our guests and efficiently guiding visitors around, taking part in interactive teaching sessions and talking about their work. We are also grateful to the parents of Academy students who kindly came along to talk to visiting parents about their experience of life at the Academy. Finally, thanks to the Governors who came to show their support.

During the course of the evening, visitors came from 40 different primary schools with strong attendance from some of

our key feeders including Claremont, St James', Sherwood and St John's.

Feedback from parents:  
*"I felt excitement. It was very impressive... This is exactly what Tunbridge Wells needs."*

*"Tunbridge Wells has been crying out for a school like this for many years."*

*"The vision and passion is clearly shared by all. I was very impressed with the year 11 student who was showing me round the science block."*

Principal, Mrs Carr, said: *"We are all encouraged by the community interest and delighted to receive such positive feedback. We are continuing to work hard to make this Academy an excellent learning environment for young people."*

## SUPERB RESULTS



GCSE Results Day

Academy students gained record results in this year's GCSE exams.

92% gained 5 or more A\*-C GCSEs.

Congratulations to everyone for all their hard work and commitment.

Continued on back page.

## NEW BUILD

The Academy is celebrating the start of work on the new 21.4 million pound building. The old music and drama blocks have now gone and work has just begun on the foundations of the new building.



Preparing the ground for the new building



Site of the old music and drama blocks



Visualisation of the Academy New Build

## SKA 6 LAUNCH

The Skinners' Kent Academy new Sixth Form has been launched. It will be one of the few places in Kent where students will be able to study the IBCC - The International Baccalaureate Careers Certificate. Students will study Double Award Applied Science A Level alongside two diploma subjects in IT and Business Studies as well as studying three other core elements. Vice Principal, Mr Topliss, said: *"This is another step in the Academy's growth and development. We are looking forward to welcoming students to start in the sixth form from September 2012."*

## New FACES

We are delighted to welcome 7 new members of staff to the Academy.

This year we have 4 Learning Mentors. They are all from other schools in the Skinners' family and are on their gap year before going to university.



*"I'm Will Heilpern, in my new role, as a learning mentor, I help students in the classroom with their studies, whether it be Maths, English, Science or History. This varied timetable allows me to approach every lesson with a fresh enthusiasm. As mentors, we also fulfil a pastoral role, acting almost as a bridge between teachers and students. It is perhaps this role which differentiates us from classroom assistants. I discuss with pupils their aspirations in life, and make clear that hard-work and willpower are required to achieve them."*

We also have two Teach First Graduates working with us. Teach First is a charity that recruits exceptional graduates looking to make an impact in the classroom.

*"My name is Jamie Shaw and I have joined the Academy as a French teacher following enjoyable experiences teaching French in London and teaching English in France. I studied History and French at Durham University through which I had the opportunity to live in France for a year and access another culture through the language. I am delighted to be joining the Academy at this time as it builds on the successes of the past few years and continues to provide a range of exciting educational experiences to its students."*



*"My name is Tushar Ilwahdi and I have just joined the Mathematics Department. I graduated from Royal Holloway University where I did my Undergraduate and Master's in Economics. After completing my studies, I worked in finance which was great fun and I learnt a lot about the financial markets. I am hoping to use my experiences to help change and continue to drive aspirations at The Skinners' Kent Academy."*

And finally ... a big welcome to Mrs Gerrard, new to the Communications Faculty, she teaches English and French.

## Carrotty GOOD

Year 7 students enjoy a day at Carrotty Wood Adventure Centre.



The trip is designed to give students a great outdoor learning experience and to bond with their new classmates. There's nothing like the leap of faith to bring a class together!



## FIRST IMPRESSIONS

**Year 7, Harvey Ebbage, on his first term.**

Coming to the Academy was a very big thing, but when I arrived it was completely different to what I expected; in truth, it was better! Personally I feel that settling in is not a problem at all, and on the first day I had already made loads of friends, including Ben and Sam who are both from Claremont Primary School.

From the start of the term we all feel the Academy is not a place to sit and be punished, but a place to make new friends and set new targets as well as to be educated in a way that would help us in our futures.

In school homework is referred to as independent learning, as you are supposedly left to independently complete, perfect and hand-in work on the due date !! For Ben, achieving this is always trying your hardest and getting work in at the required time.

The reason Sam chose the Academy was because of the new building and the new technology that will be used in school - like the science labs and ICT rooms and he hopes it is done as soon as possible.

So far so good ... We have all really enjoyed our first term.

# Students Investigate Future Careers

**Engineering, Biochemistry and Journalism - students get an insight into the world of work and study post 16.**



Academy Students at Skills Fest

Year 10 and 11 students joined over a thousand young people from across West Kent at the Skills Fest held at the River Centre in Tonbridge in October.

The Skills Fest, in its second year, is an opportunity for students to investigate a wide range of inspiring careers on offer in the world today. The rooms of the River Centre were sectioned off into three zones: Aspiration, Employability and Inspiration.

Students were able to spend time in each zone and take part in interactive workshops, visit stands and find out about different jobs in a wide range of industries from health care to engineering and from journalism to biochemistry.

John Tranter from EBP, one of the event organisers said *"The partnership between West Kent Schools and employers is to raise aspirations and career prospects for jobs"*.

Lucia, Year 10 Academy student said *"It was very interesting, I got the chance to ask questions about some of my possible career choices, I also found out about careers I never even knew existed"*.

The Academy would like to say a huge thank you to the employers and universities who made the day such a success including 'Viglen' who kindly donated a prize of a DVD Camcorder for students. (Winner is still to be announced).

## The Sound of Music



Academy Students at Tonbridge Grammar School for the LCO workshop

Twelve Year 7 students took part in singing and instrumental workshops at Tonbridge Grammar School this term.

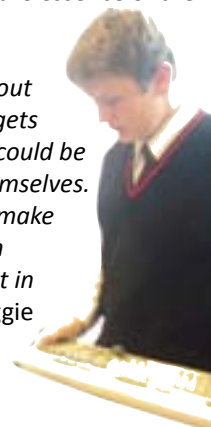
The workshops are run by the London Chamber Orchestra and will result in a performance at Cadogan Hall in Chelsea next year.

## TEEN TECH

Twelve Year 8 and 9 Academy students joined 30 other Schools at the Teen Tech event this September. They got hands-on technical experience and met some of the top Engineers and Scientists in the UK.

The day started with students being asked to quickly draw their impressions of a Scientist. Wild hair, glasses and white coats were very much in evidence. They were then asked to participate using voting buttons on their views of Engineers and Scientists. Many of the students changed their outlook on this after attending workshops where they had a go at designing a new roller coaster, new apps, rebuilding a computer from scratch. They also visited clever, engaging stands where 140 Engineers and Scientists, armed with the very latest technology, conveyed the essence of their working life.

*"Teenagers dream about owning the latest gadgets but few consider they could be shaping the future themselves. There's a real need to make them aware of the rich opportunities that exist in these areas."* said Maggie Philbin Tomorrow's World reporter who founded Teen Tech.



## SAFEGUARDING

In a recent visit by the Academy governor responsible for safeguarding, Academy policy and practice were found to be of a very high standard.

## WANTED

**Your Academy needs You!**

We are delighted that some parents have shown an interest in forming a Parents Association (PA) at the Academy. The group could get involved in supporting Academy events, fundraising and organising social activities.

There will be an initial meeting to discuss the formation of the group on Wednesday, 16th November at 7:30pm, if you would like to get involved and are able to come to this meeting please contact Mrs Marden (T: 534377 or [Lindsey.marden@skinnerkentacademy.org.uk](mailto:Lindsey.marden@skinnerkentacademy.org.uk)).

# SCIENCE & ENGINEERING



## DO TRY THIS AT HOME ~ EASY EXPERIMENTS

### Making Batteries

Science and Engineering club started the term by investigating how you can make batteries out of fruit. Why not try this at home? To do this you will need:

- 4 lemons – fresh
- 4 copper pennies
- 4 galvanised nails
- 5 crocodile clips
- Copper wire
- LED

Take one lemon and insert a coin at one end and on the other end insert a nail, pushing them in as far as you can (leave a little to attach the crocodile clips).

Attach the crocodile clips to the nail and the coin and other end of each wire to the LED light. Make sure the wire that is connected to the flat part of the LED is connected to the nail.

Does the light turn on? (it probably won't at this point).

If you add more lemons into the circuit then you will see the light come on.

Illuminating!



## SPORT REPORT

Sam Wheeler, Year 8, Academy Sports Correspondent

Hello, and welcome to the first sports report of the new academic year.

Football has been a big focus this term and our football teams in all of the year groups have got on really well and battled hard. There have been a number of wins and some really close games with good performances against a lot of local schools including: Sackville, Mascalls, Hayesbrook, Bennett Memorial, St. Gregory's and The Knole Academy. The Skinners' Kent Academy fixtures are now firmly on the sporting calendar of the local Tunbridge Wells' schools.

It would be fantastic if we could get a few

more supporters along to the games, we regularly see Mrs. Carr at the games along with other Teachers, but would really like to see some more students and parents come along to the matches.

The other sport this term is gymnastics and a lot of students have been studying it in P.E. lessons with Mrs. Nicholson.

There are also lots of great sporting clubs taking place during lunchtimes and after school. Some of our options this year include: golf, rugby, netball, horse riding, athletics, dance and new by popular demand this year: clay pigeon shooting and dodge ball!

## Superb Results cont from front page...

### GCSE Results 2011

- 92% 5 or more A\* - C GCSE
- 171% increase in 5 or more A\* - C GCSE including English and Maths in just 2 years
- 74% A\* - C GCSE Science
- 31% 3 or more A\* - A GCSE

*"I'm ecstatic and it feels like all my hard work was worth it. I'm now going to do 'A' levels in English Literature, English Language, History and Media and would like to go into journalism in the future." Student*

If you have a story or any feedback please contact Talya Roberson  
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# ACADEMY CALENDAR

21 Oct	Groundbreaking Ceremony Progress Reviews Sent Home
24-28 Oct	Half Term
24 Oct	Maths Revision Sessions
25 Oct	Science Revision Sessions
9-14 Nov	Public Examinations Year 11
11 Nov	Remembrance Assembly
13 Nov	Student Leadership at Tunbridge Wells Remembrance Service
17 Nov	Certificate Presentation Evening 7-8pm
29 Nov	Year 9 Options Evening
12-16 Dec	Charity and Celebration Week
16 Dec	Christmas Holidays
4 Jan	Students return to the Academy



## Survey RESULTS

The Academy survey completed last academic year by parents, pupils and staff revealed some excellent findings.

### Students

The students gave a very good overall performance score (72%) for the Academy. Amongst the students who had been attending the Academy for over a year, 78% said the Academy had improved over the past year. The highest scores went to the delivery and availability of resources, control of bullying and teaching quality.

### Parents

The parents gave an excellent overall performance score (82%). Over 80% of parents of new pupils said the Academy was better than they had expected.

### Staff

Staff gave an excellent overall performance score of 83%. 90% said the Academy had improved over the last year. With regard to the core areas, staff are most happy with pupil appearance, vision of the Principal and clarity of the development plan.