

SKA WEEKLY

Week 1 – Term 1 2014/15

5th September 2014

SKA CALENDAR

9th & 11th Sept Academy Tours for prospective parents
9th Sept DoE Parent information evening
12th – 14th Sept Practice DoE weekend

Week 1 TERM 1 –
ATTENDANCE – this section starts next week

Brunel	%
Darwin	%
Newton	%
Franklin	%

HOUSE TUTOR GROUP
ATTENDANCE – this section starts next week

B1 –	N1 –
B2 –	N2 –
B3 –	N3 –
B4 –	N4 –
D1 –	N5 –
D2 –	N6 –
D3 –	N7 –
D4 –	N8 –
F1 –	N9 –
F2 –	N10 –
	N11 –
	N12 –
	N13 –

ATTENDANCE AT THE ACADEMY

A student's parents are fully responsible for ensuring the highest levels of attendance possible and not less than 95%. Parents are required to let the Academy know by 8.30am if their child will be absent on that day. They are obliged to provide the Academy with a full explanation of why the student will not be attending. Failure to do so may lead the Assistant Head of House to categorise the attendance as unauthorised.

Poor punctuality is not acceptable. If a student misses the start of the day they miss work and important information. Late arriving students also disrupt lessons, the learning of others, can be embarrassing for the student and can also encourage absence. Detentions are set for persistent lateness.

There is no automatic entitlement in law to time off in Academy term time to go on holiday. All applications for leave must be made in advance and at the discretion of the Academy, a maximum of 10 days in any academic year may be authorised. In making a decision, the Academy will consider the circumstances of each application individually, including any previous pattern of leave in term time.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR STUDENTS ARRIVING AT / LEAVING THE ACADEMY SITE

We would like to remind you of the arrangements for dropping off and collecting students from the Academy. We have broken down the arrangements into the 4 main modes of transport students use to access the Academy.

Pedestrians

To enter via the Blackhurst Lane pedestrian entrance. This is situated adjacent to the Academy crossing point. Students are to enter the site respectfully and with due care and attention to other students. They make their way through the amphitheatre area and use the Pen and Paper entrance to enter the Academy building. Senior staff will be on duty to guide students to the correct area.

Cyclists

To use the Sandown Park entrance, dismount before they get onto the Academy site, secure their bikes in the bike sheds and use the main student entrance to enter the Academy building.

Bus

Arrangements for those students who use Academy buses remain the same. Students who use service buses are to follow the guidance for pedestrians.

Travelling by car – drop off / pick up

The main Academy car park will be used as a drop off / pick up area. As you drive into the Blackhurst Lane car park, continue straight up the one way drive and turn right to find parking bays. After drop off / pick up, continue around the one way system that will take you back to the car park gate and out onto Blackhurst Lane. Please drive and park with care; students and parents will be walking through this area. This makes drop off and pick up much safer for road users and our students alike. The student entry and exit gates, to and from the car park, will be open 08.10 – 08.30 in the

Link to the Academy web site:

<http://www.skinnerskentacademy.org.uk>

morning and 15.15 – 15.30 in the afternoon. Any drop off / pick up outside of these times should be done at the main Sandown Park entrance.

We would request that parents do not wait/park in Blackhurst Lane – this is a very narrow road and considerable congestion is caused if cars are parked. We have been respectfully asked by the residents of Badgers Holt to ask parents not to use their gated entrance as a student drop-off/turning point. This entrance is in constant use and disruption is caused for the residents by cars stopping and turning. We are a no-smoking site; this extends to the car park and we would also ask that our parents model this behavior when in the close proximity of the Academy.

DAVID FITZSIMMONS (CHAIR OF THE GOVERNORS FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE) RETURNS HOME AS THE 'ROUND THE WORLD' YACHT RACE FINISHES

It's all over.....here I am, back at my desk in Kent and normal life is rapidly embracing me, making my time on the yacht seem a memory already.

But what a memory it will be. The final day, coming up the Thames as the winning yacht was truly amazing. One of the most memorable days of my life. An experience I will treasure for ever.

But first there was the final race, from Den Helder in Holland, across the North Sea, to the Thames Estuary - the shortest race of the whole series. The forecast was for a reasonable wind to start with, but then falling away, so we were expecting a slow and frustrating time. However, how wrong was that? The winds picked up and kept changing, so there was a lot to do the whole way across - changing sails, tacking and gybing. So much so that by the time we had finished, we thought we had done more physical work on this short race than on the entire way from Rio to Cape Town back in the Autumn.

The finish line was off Southend Pier, at the mouth of the Thames - exactly the same line as we had crossed to start the race back on 2nd September 2013. We remembered how nervous we had all been at the start, the apprehension of the race ahead, not quite knowing what it would be like, the length of time at sea, how fierce the conditions would be, how we would all get on in the confined space of a 70 foot yacht. The concerns we all shared....and those we kept to ourselves.

But as we crossed the finish line, we were a very different crew - especially those who had gone round the world; conquered their fears; achieved something amazing, to have gone round the world, and in doing so, to have won the race. It really was a team effort, with the round the world members of the crew at its core, but those of us who joined for one or more legs very much part of it. To emphasise that it really had been a team effort, as we crossed the finish line, all 20 of us managed to have a hand on the wheel!

We spent the night at anchor off Southend - the first time the anchor had been used, I think.

Then at 7.30 on Saturday morning, we started our journey up the Thames to London. We were lead boat, so had to set the pace and the course, with the other 11 boats lined up behind us - an amazing sight, especially as the scene changed from a coastal one to more familiar landmarks. I was at the wheel for a while, most of the way from the M25 bridge at Dartford to the Thames Barrier. We were soon passing Canary Wharf and Greenwich, and then round the final bend in the river to see Tower Bridge. We were exactly on time and as we approached the bridge it opened ahead of us, and the top 3 boats carried on under the bridge into the historic Pool of London, between the ancient Tower of London and the very modern City Hall, both seats of power over London, separated by a thousand years and by the width of the river Thames.

While we were the other side of the bridge, the other boats started their triumphant entry into St Katherine's Dock, entering in reverse order.

The bridge reopened, allowing us to enter a packed St Katherine's. We were the last to enter, to the most extraordinary welcome, with cheering like I have never experienced before.

We just about managed to get our mooring lines tied and then onto the stage for our presentation ... how far it seemed from Rio, where we had had our first "podium position", after coming 3rd in the long, 4 week race from Brittany.

Once we were off the boat, the celebrations really started, with lots and lots of farewells, to my own crew, but also to friends on all the other boats. People I had trained with before the race started, and seen at the various ports we had stopped at.

And back at home now, I know that inevitably some of those people I will never see again, but more importantly, some will be friends for life.

