

ASPIRE

THE MARSH ACADEMY NEWSLETTER TERM 1 - OCTOBER 2011



Best ever GCSE and
A-Level results!

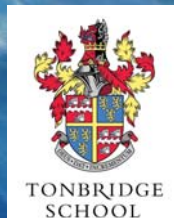
New Extended
Day groups get
started

Yellow School triumphs at
Sports Day

Meet our new
Head Boy and
Head Girl

Rewards for top
Year 11 students

Microsoft



Who's Who in the Academy

Tracy Luke
Executive Principal

Marion Emptage
Head of School

Lin Burrows
Shaun Simmons
Vice Principals

Robert Bristow
Luke Magee
Richard
Robinson
Assistant Principals

Elena Cooper
Blue Mini-School
Leader

Alyson Shaw
Green Mini-School
Leader

Lesley Palmer
Red Mini-School
Leader

Jim Grant
Yellow Mini-School
Leader

Pamela Upton
Head of Post-16

A Message from the Principal & Head of School

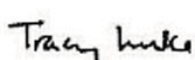
Dear Parents & Carers

The 2011-12 Academic Year has started extremely well: the new year 7s seem to have found their feet and have made a very smooth transition from primary to secondary school; the Year 11s have all started new GCSEs where appropriate and some have embarked upon Advanced Level study; Year 9 has started GCSE work; and our Post-16 students have settled into the more independent style of study required in the Sixth Form. We are extremely proud of all of our Year 11, 12 and 13 students whose hard work helped the Academy to achieve its best ever examination results this year - our GCSE results mean we are now the highest-achieving non-selective school in the area!

Year 7 students were introduced to our reward concerts this term with a performance by Hatty Keane; all of our students now know what they need to do to be invited to future concerts, and we hope that you will support them to achieve 100% attendance and excellent behaviour.

We are delighted to inform you that work on our new building is progressing well, and we look forward to moving in next year. We have also had planning permission for a Family and Inclusion Centre on our site; building will begin on this as soon as we have moved into the new main building.

Best wishes



Tracy Luke
Principal

Marion Emptage
Head of School

Sign Up to the Mailing List!

How did you access the newsletter today? If you went via our website but would prefer to have the newsletter come straight to your inbox every term, sign up to the mailing list!

Just send your e-mail address to LSmith@marshacademy.org.uk with the subject line "Newsletter", and it will be sent to you as soon as it's available each term!

To keep up to date throughout the term, keep an eye on our "Latest News" page at www.marshacademy.org.uk/latest-news.

INFORMATION

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t: 01797 364593 :: w: www.marshacademy.org.uk :: **Absence Line:** 01797 363594

Half Term: Wednesday 19th October to Friday 28th October 2011
Year 11 Parents' Evening: Tuesday 15th November 2011 (no extended day)
Post-16 Open Evening: Tuesday 22nd November 2011 (no extended day)
Year 9 Parents' Evening: Thursday 1st December 2011 (no extended day)
Year 7 Parents' Evening: Wednesday 7th December 2011
Christmas Holiday: Monday 19th December to Tuesday 3rd January 2012

A-LEVEL RESULTS



Sixth form students picked up their final exam results in August before embarking on an impressive range of career paths and higher education places.

Deputy Head Girl Shelley Etherton, 18, achieved 2 A* and an A grade in her BTEC Sport, along with a B grade in A-Level Citizenship, to secure her place studying Law and Criminology at Portsmouth University. Shelley said "I'm quite happy with that actually! I'm really looking forward to university!" Head Boy Simon Tallis is also heading to university – his A-Levels in Physics, Maths and Design Technology have gained him a place studying Civil Engineering at Brighton University. Asked how he felt about his results, Simon's



response was succinct: "I'm relieved!"

Other success stories included:

- Callum Muir, 19, who gained a Distinction in his BTEC Public Services and a C in English Literature; Callum will be going to the University of Worcester to study Media Studies.
- Hayley Newman, 18, who was delighted to achieve an A-grade in A-Level Maths, along with C grades in Business Studies and Economics. She will attend Loughborough University to study Maths.
- Natasha Sleeman and Lee Russell, who are both in Year 11 and both achieved B grades in their AS-Level English Literature. Lee has joined



Post-16 at the Marsh Academy whilst Natasha will be going to college to study Anthropology, Sociology and Biology.

For those students not going on to university, a range of exciting careers awaits them! Head Girl Amy Fowles has secured an apprenticeship in Events Management with Portico in London, Jordan Rawlin has applied to join the Army and Annabel Sugden will be training horses!

Head of School Marion Emptage said: "We are extremely proud of our Post-16 students who have worked exceptionally hard to achieve the grades that they needed this year, and we wish them the very best of luck in their future studies and new careers."

FAMILY & INCLUSION CENTRE



The Marsh Academy has received planning permission for a £3.6 million centre to support vulnerable students and house family support services; this will be funded by a grant from the Colyer-Fergusson Trust and building will commence when the school has moved into its new main building. The aim of the Centre is to ensure that all students have the best possible chance of achieving their potential by helping them to work through any barriers or problems that they may be experiencing by providing inclusion services, for example help with literacy or access to a counsellor. The top floor of the Centre will be dedicated to community use, for example to provide family support services and adult education.

GCSE RESULTS



The Marsh Academy scored its best ever GCSE results this year! 47% of year 11 students obtained 5 A*-C grades including English and Maths, up from 35% last year and an impressive increase from the 18% of students with the same result in the last year of Southlands, which the Academy replaced in 2007. This also far exceeds the Government target of 35% of students achieving these grades.

Top achievers at the Academy included Joshua Kirby, who achieved 9 A* and A grades, and Kirsty Cole, who achieved 7 A* and A grades plus 7 B grades. Joshua was delighted with his results, saying: "I did better than I thought I would in Year 10, and then I worked really hard this year. I'm staying on for sixth form to

study Economics, ICT and Public Services." Kirsty has also joined the sixth form, where she is studying A-Levels in English and Psychology as well as continuing the BTEC Health and Social Care that she started in Year 11. Students Jacob Day and Jay Christy were celebrating achieving A grades in their BTECs in Public Services; both students have joined the Academy's sixth form.

Year 10 students at the Academy also took their GCSEs this year as part of the Academy's accelerated curriculum programme. Students begin studying for their GCSEs in year 9, and after taking their exams in year 10, can move on to AS-Levels or additional GCSEs in year 11 or have the opportunity to



spend another year on their GCSEs if they feel they need more time to achieve the grades they deserve. Students Amie Rawlin, Jasmine Nelson and Nicole Caryl were delighted with their results, which included B and C grades in English and Maths. 15-year-old Stephen Dommatt excelled in Maths, achieving an A grade, whilst Jemma Paterson obtained an A* in Art.

Marsh Academy Principal Tracy Luke said: "We are delighted with these results, which are not only the best in the Academy's history but place the Academy as one of the best schools in Shepway. The hard work and dedication of both staff and students has really paid off, and we would like to congratulate all of them on this fantastic achievement!"

SCHOOL RECEPTION - HOLIDAY OPENING TIMES

Reception at the Marsh Academy will be open from 8am to 4pm on Mondays and Tuesdays ONLY during all school closure times, starting from the holiday in October 2011.

YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING

We would like to thank all of the students who gave up their time to help at the Year 6 Open Evening. They did a fantastic job of making the Year 6 students and their families feel welcome, and really helped to show what a warm, positive community we have at the Academy.

EXTENDED DAY CANCELLATIONS

Due to Parents' Evenings and Open Evenings, Extended Day will be cancelled on Tuesday 22nd November and Thursday 1st December. Year 7 students will be able to take their normal school transport on these days.

YEAR 11 REWARDS



Top Year 11 students got their day off to a great start on 13th September when they were taken to the local coffee shop for breakfast! 39 students were treated by the Academy to celebrate impressive achievements in their GCSE examinations in the summer of 2011.

All of the students achieved the key government target of 5 A*-C grade GCSEs (including English and Maths) a full year early and have now moved on

to studying additional GCSEs, AS-Levels and vocational options. Members of the Academy's Senior Leadership Team and Mini-School teams also attended to join in the celebration. The results achieved by the students helped contribute to the Academy's best-ever GCSE results this year.

Congratulating the students, Executive Principal Tracy Luke said: "We wanted to congratulate you on achieving

these excellent results a year early; this is a really impressive achievement, and we can't wait to see what you go on to achieve this year!"

There was also a reward for Year 11 students who achieved their target grades by the end of Year 10; these students were treated to pizza and a film on a Friday afternoon! We are extremely proud of those students who worked hard and succeeded in their exams, and are delighted to reward them for all of their achievements!

EXTENDED DAY

Extended Day has taken on a new form this year, with activities now taking place on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. All Year 7s must take part in an activity at least once a week, whilst activities are optional for all other years. Students can choose from 55 activities ranging from chess club and GCSE catch-up sessions to Scalextric club and cupcake decorating. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to try new activities and learn new skills, so we encourage as many as possible to sign up for an activity.



INSPIRATION FOR STUDENTS

Football freestyle world champion John Farnworth spent a day at the Marsh Academy on 18th July performing and speaking to students about his career.

John took up football freestyling 7 years ago and quickly turned professional. He took part in the 2009 series of Britain's Got Talent, where he got through the first round, and currently holds four Guinness World Records for freestyle tricks, including the most "around the worlds" performed in one minute.

When speaking to students, John highlighted the importance of dedication and having clear goals, as well as the need for hard work and always striving to improve, no matter how much you had already achieved – an inspiring message for all our students!



MEET OUR NEW HEAD BOY & GIRL!



We are pleased to introduce our new Head Boy and Head Girl, Jake Hawkes and Charlotte Hayward! Jake and Charlotte were appointed following interviews with Marion Emptage, Head of School; Richard Robinson, Assistant Principal with responsibility for Post-16; and Brenda Wimble, School Governor. They carried out their first duties in their new roles in October when they welcomed Year 6 students and their parents to the Academy's Open Evening. Jake said "I wanted to be Head Boy as it teaches me many different life skills, such as independence and leadership" whilst Charlotte said "I wanted to make a difference to the school before I left and give something back to the school after they have taught me for 7 years."

What are you currently studying?

Jake: I am studying Public Services and IT at BTEC Level 3.
Charlotte: I am currently studying Maths, Chemistry and Physics at A-level and Further Maths at AS level.

What do you hope to do when you leave the Academy?

J: My aim is to go to Canterbury Christ Church University before joining the Police.
C: I hope to study Pure Maths at the University of Kent.

What has been one of your best experiences at the Academy?

J: Some of my best experiences are the different outdoor and adventurous activities I have taken part in during my Public Services course.
C: Being able to go to other schools, i.e. Tonbridge and the Folkestone School for Girls, to see different methods of teaching, their facilities and meet other students studying the same subjects.

REWARDS & ENRICHMENT



The Marsh Academy's popular rewards concerts have continued recently with performances by ShyChlo, Hiddenman and Hatty Keane.

ShyChlo, whose members include ex-Marsh Academy students, performed for students in July and have supported Chase and Status,

Pendulum, Devlin and Modestep.

Hatty Keane performed for Year 7 and 8 students in September; this was the first concert for Year 7 students, and they were reminded that good behaviour, attendance and hard work would result in more concerts in the future!

Hiddenman, a rap artist from London, came to the Academy in September to work with Post-16 students. He discussed with them the messages in the media, from song lyrics to video games, before performing his own music which aims to inspire and positively influence young people.

SPORTS FUN DAY



Students enjoyed a day of fun sports activities on the last day of term. Each mini-school built up points over the course of the day which were then added to by mini-school staff, who won points for batting water balloons with tennis rackets! Every mini-school put in such an impressive performance that they scored enough points to have won last year, however the final result saw Blue School come in fourth and Green School third, with Yellow School breaking Red School's winning streak by taking the shield! Congratulations to all students for taking part and really getting into the spirit of the day!



Above: A Green Mini-School student celebrates winning some valuable points!

KS4 Artist of the Month Helena Banks



Above: Blue Mini-School staff take part in the staff competition to win some extra points!

MORE SUCCESS FOR OLLIE!

Student Ollie Daws added another golf trophy to his collection during the summer holidays when he won the Kent Championships for his age group! Ollie is sponsored by the Marsh Academy to help him progress his golf career, and is pictured here receiving a trophy from the Mayor of New Romney.



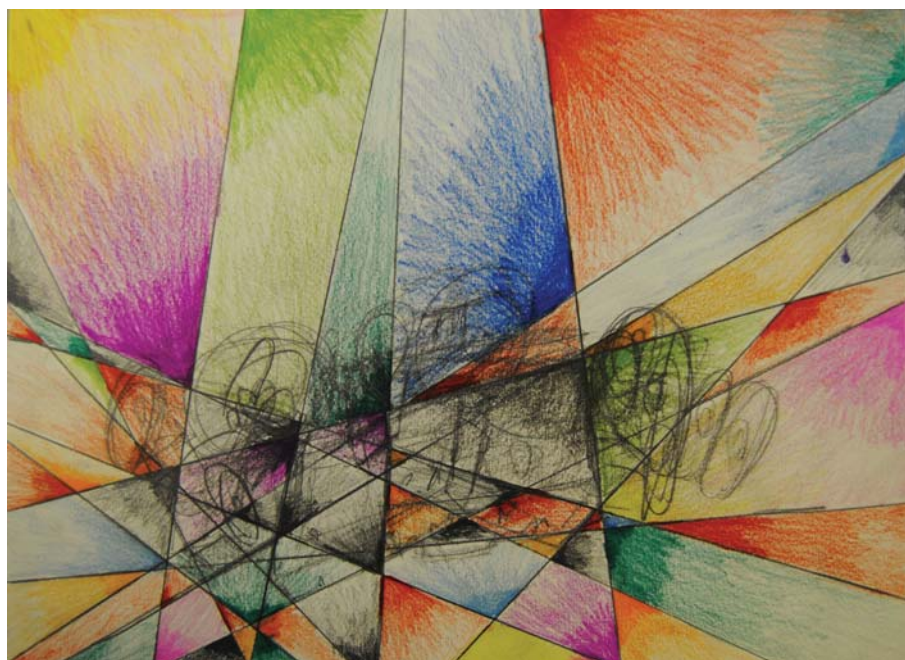
NOVEMBER EXAM TIMETABLE

All candidates need to bring with them to the exams:

- A black pen; a pencil; a ruler (if required)
- A calculator (if required)
- The exam sheet they were given by their tutor

In addition, students MUST be in full Marsh Academy uniform.

Date	Time	Length of Exam	Title
Tue 8 Nov	09:00	01:45	English GCSE Resit
	13:00	00:30	Add.Science Chem Foundation
		00:30	Add.Science Chem Higher
Wed 9 Nov	13:00	01:30	Maths Foundation
		01:45	Maths Higher
Fri 11 Nov	13:00	01:30	English GCSE Resit
Mon 14 Nov	09:00	01:30	Maths Foundation
		01:45	Maths Higher
	13:00	00:20	Add.Science 5017 M/Choice
Tue 15 Nov	09:00	00:20	Science Core 5007 M/Choice
		00:20	Science Core 5008 M/Choice



KS3 Artist of the Month: Bradley Camani

NEW BUILD UPDATE

Carillion is working towards the completion of the new building by 20th December 2011.

However, on the advice of Kent County Council, we have decided to defer the opening of the new building to students and staff until after the February 2012 half-term. This is to ensure that all systems have been thoroughly tested and snagging has been rectified before we move in.

SHOW JUMPING



Year 10 student Beth Coleman has had some fantastic successes recently in showjumping! In August, she came 8th in the Senior Championships of Great Britain competing against riders of all ages, whilst she is pictured here with the cup that she won for the Summer Showjumping Series held near Orpington over a series of months. Beth, who started showjumping when she was just 6 years old, trains every day and hopes to continue competing at an ever-higher level! We wish her the very best of luck.