

# ASPIRE

THE MARSH ACADEMY NEWSLETTER    TERM 1 - OCTOBER 2010

New Sixth Form students are aiming high!

Best ever GCSE and A-Level results!

Literacy through music - MOBO award winner Akala inspires Marsh Academy students

Meet our new Head Boy and Girl!

High achievers rewarded at Disneyland Paris!

Rocking the boat in Guys and Dolls



**Microsoft**



TONBRIDGE SCHOOL



## Who's Who in the Academy

**Tracy Luke**  
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*

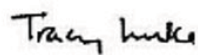
Dear Parents & Carers

The 2010-11 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 delighted to report that the Azincourt Centre - our residential centre in Northern France - is now open for business again. Mr Grant, Mr Brown, Miss Brazier and Miss Smith took a group of students over in September to visit the Medieval Centre, to experience something of France and to visit Disneyland Paris. A fantastic time was had by all and we hope to see lots more students visiting the centre this year.

The building work is progressing smoothly and we hope to have more information on when the building will be ready for us before long.

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](mailto:LSmith@marshacademy.org.uk) with the subject line "Newsletter", and it will be sent to you as soon as it's available each month!

To keep up to date throughout the term, keep an eye on our "Latest News" page at [www.marshacademy.org.uk/latest-news](http://www.marshacademy.org.uk/latest-news) or our Twitter account at [www.twitter.com/marshacademy](http://www.twitter.com/marshacademy).

## INFORMATION

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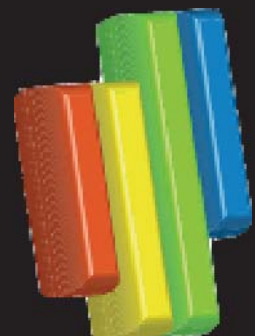
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[www.marshacademy.org.uk](http://www.marshacademy.org.uk)

Half Term: Monday 25th October to Friday 5th  
November 2010

Review Day: Tuesday 16th November 2010



# SIMON & AMY ARE! HEAD BOY & GIRL!



Back row: Amy Fowles & Simon Tallis  
Middle row: George Welsby & Shelley Etherton  
Front row: Miles Dommett & Sophie Daws

We are delighted to introduce our new Head Boy, Head Girl and their deputies! Simon Tallis and Amy Fowles were appointed following interviews with Marion Emptage, Head of School, Alan Holliwel, School Governor and Chair of Personnel and Finance Committee, and Richard Robinson, Assistant Principal. Simon and Amy have already carried out their first official roles as Head Boy and Girl, welcoming and giving speeches to parents and prospective students at the Year 6 Open Evening in October.

Sophie Daws, Miles Dommett, Shelley Etherton and George Welsby will act as deputies to Amy and Simon.

## MEET SIMON AND AMY!

*What are you currently studying?*

Simon: Sport, Maths, Physics and Design Technology.

Amy: Psychology, English Literature, Health and Social Care and Carpentry through enrichment.

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

Simon: An engineering apprenticeship - you get the same qualification as if you went to university, but you get work experience and a salary at the same time!

Amy: I hope to go to university to go into teaching or to work with children.

*Why did you want to be Head Boy and Head Girl?*

Simon: To get the badge! We both wanted to represent the school and to try to make students as enthusiastic about the school as we are.

Amy: We also both wanted to help people, and make sure that students' voices were being heard.

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

Simon: Seeing Akala perform in the Theatre, or trying kite-surfing on the field during the Work Skills Week.

Amy: We went on a team building trip to Bewl Water at the end of Year 12 that was really good, but mostly I've just enjoyed being with people at the school!

# Best Ever GCSE & A-Level Results!



The Marsh Academy was celebrating this summer after scoring its best ever GCSE results! 35% of year 11 students obtained 5 A\*-C grades including English and Maths, up from 30% 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. Overall, 72% of students achieved at least 5 A\*-C grades across all subjects.

Some of the students celebrating their results were Charlotte Hayward and Toby Arnott, who both achieved the grades that they needed to join the Academy's Sixth Form. Charlotte, whose results included 4 A grades, will be studying Chemistry, Physics, Maths and Critical Thinking, which she hopes will lead to a place at university to study Chemistry. Toby, whose results included A grades in English and Maths and a B

in Science, will be studying 5 subjects in the Sixth Form including Economics, Physics and Maths. Toby said "I'm really happy with what I got – I'm very proud of myself!"

Student Charna Stark, 16, also excelled in her studies, achieving 6 A\* grades and 2 As. Charna said "I'm really happy! I wasn't nervous until I was given the envelope! I'm going to study Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Maths at the Folkestone School for Girls, and will hopefully go to university to study Science." Charna is taking advantage of the link between the Marsh Academy and the Folkestone School for Girls, which sees Post-16 subjects being delivered by both schools to broaden the choices available to students.

Year 10 students at the Academy also took their GCSEs this year, the first group to complete the Academy's

accelerated curriculum. 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. One of the students benefiting from this new system was Lee Russell, 15, whose results included 2 A\*s and 2 As. Lee's results mean that he can now move on to take extra GCSEs plus an AS-Level in English. Natasha Sleeman, 15, whose results included an A\* in English, will be taking AS-Levels in Chemistry and Critical Thinking.

Marsh Academy Principal Tracy Luke said: "We are delighted with these results, which are the best ever for the Academy and demonstrate that we continue to go from strength to strength. Congratulations to all of the students and staff on their extremely hard work!"

The pass rate for A-Level and Level 3 qualifications this year was 96% - up from 85% last year!

Student Joe McEvoy, 18, will be heading to Southampton University to study Sociology after achieving an outstanding 2 A\* grades and 1 A grade. Joe hopes to have a career in research following university. Another high-achiever was Lee Bounds, also 18, who gained three A grades to allow him to take up a place at the University of Kent studying Politics and International Relations.

Students that are heading to university this year will be studying subjects as diverse as Business and History, Fine Art and Crime and Policing. Other students will be continuing their education with apprenticeships and college courses building on vocational qualifications achieved at the Academy.



Head of School Marion Emptage said: "We are very proud of our students, who have achieved more A and A\* grades than ever before! We wish them all the best of luck in the future."

# LITERACY THROUGH MUSIC

MOBO AWARD WINNING HIP-HOP STAR AKALA VISITS THE MARSH ACADEMY



Award-winning hip-hop artist Akala visited the Marsh Academy on 23rd September, the only school to be visited as part of his nationwide libraries tour. The star gave a 30 minute performance before answering questions on his inspiration for his lyrics and his passion for reading.

During his set, Akala emphasised the importance of reading and education to students, encouraging them to read books that had inspired him and stating "education doesn't have to be boring!" George Orwell's classic novel 1984 was one of the main influences for Akala's latest album, DoubleThink, and students were urged to read the book and explore how "[Orwell] used fiction as a vehicle to express himself." Akala also spoke to students about the significance of intellectualism in early hip hop and lamented the decline

of this, arguing "what gave hip hop credibility was lyricism and a different point of view. It's interesting how that climate has changed over the last 10-15 years; it's become more corporate, with companies using music to sell." Asked what message he would like students to take away from the session, Akala's answer was simple: "knowledge is power."

Over 100 students from the Marsh Academy, along with 40 visiting students from the Folkestone School for Girls, were chosen to attend the performance as a reward for high achievement in English. Those achievements were put to the test when students competed for free tickets to a forthcoming Akala gig by spotting the 27 Shakespeare play titles in the song 'Comedy Tragedy History'; three students walked away with tickets after spotting 14 titles each!

Speaking about the tour, Akala said "My passion for reading pervades my own creative work and new album, so I also hope that these performances will challenge preconceptions and encourage young people to develop a passion for reading and words."

Assistant Principal Richard Robinson, who arranged the visit, said: "The visit by Akala to the Marsh Academy represented an extremely significant and important opportunity for many of our students to engage with the power of the written and the spoken word in a contemporary and relevant idiom. Akala was at pains to stress the importance of reading since the more that you read then the better writer you will become and he was totally passionate about communicating this through his music and his words."

# Guys and Dolls

Students at the Marsh Academy delighted their classmates and families in July with two dazzling performances of Guys and Dolls. The students, who had been rehearsing since the end of last year, danced, sang and acted their way through

two hours of the Broadway classic, ending with a storming rendition of "Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat".

14-year-old Lucy took on the role of Miss Adelaide, waiting ever-patiently for small-time

gambler Nathan Detroit – played by 13-year-old Nathan – to propose, whilst the roles of the Save-A-Soul Mission Sergeant and her unlikely beau Sky Masterson were played by Georgia (14) and John (13).



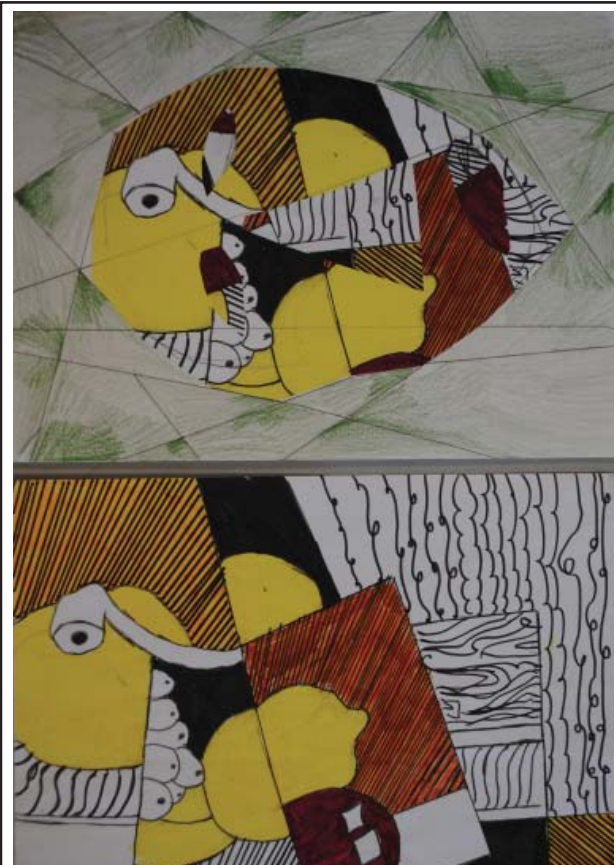
See some of our students' work online at the Saatchi Gallery! Visit <http://www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk/portfolio/SchoolInfo/The+Marsh+Academy/594.html>

## TRY A SCHOOL LUNCH THIS WINTER!

The Marsh Academy provides a wide range of delicious, freshly prepared hot and cold healthy foods in its Food Hall, which has two separate dining areas. Hot main meals and salads are available in the Bistro and freshly prepared sandwiches, wraps, Paninis and snacks can be purchased in the Snack Bar area. Fresh soup served with crusty bread will also be available in the new term for 60p.

A main meal is just £1.50, and menus are available on our website under "Lunch Arrangements".

Don't forget that application forms for Free School Meals are available from Student Office.



**Key Stage 3 Artist of the Month**  
**Shannara Kelly**

# MAGICAL REWARD FOR HARD WORK!

Eleven students from the Marsh Academy were rewarded this term for their exceptionally hard work over the past year with a trip to the Academy's residential centre in Azincourt followed by a visit to Disneyland Paris! The group was the first to visit the Centre since it re-opened in September, and students threw themselves into a range of activities designed to educate, entertain and encourage team work.

Students began their trip with a visit to the Azincourt Museum where they learnt about the famous 1415 Battle of Azincourt, a major battle during the Hundred Years' War in which Henry V's army defeated the significantly larger French army. At the Museum, students had the chance to

test their strength to see if they could have fired a longbow (most couldn't!), experienced the view through helmets from suits of armour, and made medieval-style tiles. Students later took part in a circus skills workshop, working together to learn to juggle, balance on walking globes, spin plates and perform tricks with a diabolo. Staff at the Centre were particularly impressed with students participating in the workshop; trip leader Jim Grant said "it was great to see students from all years, who didn't know each other before the trip, really working together and helping each other to master the circus skills." The next day, it was an early start for students to travel to Disneyland Paris for several hours of adventure in the Walt Disney

Studios Park! Returning home, students were extremely positive about their trip, with comments ranging from "I've made some really good friends" to "let's come back next week!"

Centre Verginiaud in Azincourt is owned by the Marsh Academy, which has joined with the Folkestone and Marlowe Academies, to allow students from all three schools to use it. The Centre features activity rooms, a kitchen, dining rooms and bedrooms. This, along with its impressive location on the historic battlefields of Azincourt, makes the Centre a fantastic asset that can be used to enhance learning across the curriculum and help to develop team work skills and build positive relationships amongst students.



# NEW POST-16 STUDENTS ARE AIMING HIGH!



Students joining the Marsh Academy's sixth form this term were asked to challenge themselves and aim high with more than just their studies when they arrived to find a climbing wall on site!

Assistant Principal Richard Robinson arranged for the climbing wall to be brought in to break the ice and give students the chance to do some team building; Mr Robinson said "the intention of using the climbing wall was to make the young people understand the importance of teamwork, collaborative working and the importance of pushing themselves and trying out new experiences" – all vital skills for the new challenges of the sixth form. The students also took part in a music production workshop, working together in groups to help students to get to know each other.

## HOT BREAKFASTS FOR COLD WEATHER!

In addition to the wide range of options already available in the Breakfast Club, from 8th November bacon baps will be on sale for just £1! (These will not be in the breakfast deal). Come in from 7:30am to get yours!

**MARSH  
ACADEMY**

## **BREAKFAST CLUB**

**THE LIBRARY IS OPEN  
FROM 8.00 AM TO WORK IN  
BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS**

# **BREAKFAST!**

*Most important meal of the day!*

OPEN FROM 7.30am-8.35am

Selection of cereals with milk 50p  
Toast with jam or Marmite 50p  
Variety of freshly cooked croissants from 40p  
Fresh fruit or prepared fresh fruit pots 50p  
Variety of yoghurts 50p  
Fresh fruit juice 60p  
Tea, coffee and low calorie hot chocolate 60p

### BREAKFAST DEAL

Any two items from above list for 80p  
e.g. cereal & toast (a saving of 20p) or croissant & juice (a saving of 20p or more)

**THE BISTRO**



# Eco-Schools

We are the Marsh Academy Eco-Schools group who meet in Extended Day to try and improve the school environment and get everybody to be more eco-friendly.

Our goals are to:

- 1) Get students to drop less litter.
- 2) Get teachers to save energy.
- 3) Get everybody to recycle more.

If we achieve this we can get a bronze award from the Eco-Schools programme to show that we are improving our local environment and also reducing the impact we have on the global environment!

Students, you will soon receive a pack of environmental games and activities to complete in tutor time and we will be seeing you in your mini school assemblies to spread the eco-schools word further.

Teachers, parents and guardians - from 25th to 31st October it's Energy Saving Week. Have a look at <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/easy-ways-to-stop-wasting-energy/energy-saving-week> to see what you and your families can do to reduce your energy consumption.



24 Year 11 students from the Marsh Academy were rewarded for achieving their targets in Maths, English and Science GCSEs a full year early! The students all took their GCSEs at the end of Year 10 and either met or exceeded their target grades.

Students received certificates of achievement from the Principal before enjoying a buffet and watching a film. Assistant Principal Luke Magee said "these students have done extremely well to achieve their target grades a year early, and we are delighted to be able to reward all students who have worked hard to accomplish their targets."



**REWARDING ACHIEVEMENT**

# REAPING THE REWARDS IN EXTENDED DAY



In Miss Baldock's "Grow Your Own Food" group, the pumpkins have now been harvested and the ground is being cleared ready for the next project! Students will be growing their next set of plants indoors to make sure the winter weather doesn't affect their crop. The group is also collecting Morrison's "Let's Grow" vouchers to get some more equipment, so please keep these coming in!



Mr Barratt's boat building activity has proven extremely popular, and after much measuring, drilling and sawing, the boats are now starting to look very impressive!



**Key Stage 4 Artist of the Month  
Matthew Sait**

# NEW BUILD UPDATE



The new build is progressing well, with the driven piles completed and pile caps almost finished. The steel frame will be going up soon, so keep an eye out over the next few weeks to see the new building start to take shape!

The Multi-Use Games Area is also nearly complete and is due for use at the end of October, along with new shotput, discus, long jump and high jump areas and cricket nets.

## OFFICIAL! CAREERS ADVICE AT THE MARSH ACADEMY IS TOP NOTCH!

The Marsh Academy has achieved "Investors in Careers" level one accreditation two months early! This recognises the school's work and commitment to embedding careers advice and planning throughout the school.

The Academy has also achieved the Connexions Library Standards 2010-11, recognising the quality of the careers advice materials available to all students in our library.



Introducing our latest learning environment - the Theatre Learning Stage!

# HALF TERM ACTIVITIES

The Marsh Academy Leisure Centre will be running its popular "Fit4Sport" programme from Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October, 9:00am to 3:00pm each day. Fit4Sport is an enjoyable week of activities for all children aged between 7 & 14 years, and activities will include football, dodgeball, athletics, tennis, rounders, cricket and more! Places are £11 per child per day or £50 per child for the week. Please contact the Leisure Centre on 01797 369200 for more information or to book. Only 30 spaces are available each day so book quickly!

Several other organisations will also be running activities in the area for families and young people during the half-term; for more information, please visit the Latest News section of our website, [www.marshacademy.org.uk](http://www.marshacademy.org.uk).



## PUTTING ENGINEERING STUDIES TO THE TEST!

A group of Engineering students are using their Extended Day to take part in Formula Schools - a competition to build a remote control electric car from scratch before competing against teams from schools across the country in a final race at Silverstone Circuit! If you can offer any help to the team - from tools and materials to time and expertise, please contact [LSmith@marshacademy.org.uk](mailto:LSmith@marshacademy.org.uk)!



Hard at work designing the car

# Mini-School Head Boys and Girls!



**BLUE SCHOOL**

Head Boy & Girl: Perry Easton & Elliana Heath  
School Council Reps: Charmian Simmons & Tyler Barrett



**GREEN SCHOOL**

Head Boy & Girl: Jake Jones & Isabelle Brinan  
Deputy Head Boy & Girl: Shaun Forster & Catherine Stuart



**RED SCHOOL**

Head Boy & Girl: Albert Henderson & Rebecca Christmas  
Sports Captains: Kayleigh Avis & Oliver Daws



**YELLOW SCHOOL**

Head Boy & Girl: Joe Molloy & Natasha Sleeman  
Charity Secretary: Courtney Knowles

## **SAFE AT SCHOOL SURVEY 2010**

The school has a responsibility to ensure that your child is safe at school, and that he or she is protected from bullying. The school also needs to know whether its anti-bullying policy and practice is effective.

Kent County Council has produced a questionnaire that asks parents/carers what they think about how the school seeks to prevent bullying in school and specifically asks for comment on parental experiences. All responses are anonymous.

The questionnaire can be accessed at:  
<http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk?parentcarerantibullying>

## **STUDENT IS BOXER OF THE YEAR!**



Congratulations to Joel Cowling (left) who was named Folkestone Boxing Club's Boxer of the Year in September!

# SPORT



## GOLF STAR IN THE MAKING!

Year 9 student Oliver Daws has had more success both locally and nationally in golf recently, coming 3rd in a European Boys Under-13 competition held from 3-5 August, leading the Kent Under 13 Boys team (left, with Ollie Daws in the centre) to victory against Sussex and Surrey on 27th August and making the England South East Region under 18s team! On top of that, Oli is part of the Littlestone Golf Club Under 18s team that has made it through to the National Junior League Team final! Ollie's inclusion in the regional squad came after he completed a trial with the squad; following this, he received a letter from the English Golf Union that stated: "I would like to take this opportunity to praise you for your efforts this year in securing your position in the squad and in your commitment to the game." Congratulations once again to Ollie on his continued achievements!

# RED SCHOOL TRIUMPHS!



Red Mini-School excelled in sports last year, taking the shields for both the Athletics Sports Day and the Sports Fun Day at the end of the Summer Term! All students put up a strong fight to bring the shields to their mini-schools, but in the end, Red School was able to hold on to the shields for the second year running! Green School was 2nd in the Fun Day, with Blue School taking 2nd in Athletics.



# SEA ANGLING



It has been a fantastic start to the year for the fishing club, with record numbers wanting to take part! Unfortunately out of the 30 students who wanted to do this I only have room for 15. To date we have been fishing every week despite the weather being a little wet and windy on occasions, not pleasant but great for fishing. All of the students have excelled in both effort and attitude despite difficult conditions. In the last four trips we have easily caught over 200 fish, mostly Whiting but fish nonetheless - oh, and one seagull (released unharmed, just a little confused)! This has led to all the students thoroughly enjoying their time at Dungeness. I hope that the popularity will continue to grow.

Mr Hodges



# FOOTBALL

This term has seen our football teams get off to a fantastic start, with teams in all years achieving an impressive run of wins and draws with local schools. Highlights include:

Year 7 vs Harvey Grammar School: Won 5-2

Year 9 vs Brockhill: Won 10-0

Year 10 vs Brockhill: Won 5-2

Sixth Form vs Swadelands: Won 2-1

Sixth Form vs Tunbridge Wells Grammar School: Won 3-1



Year 7 Boys Football Team - unbeaten this term!

## MATCH REPORT

The Year 7 Boys football team took on Brockhill at home on 14th October, showing a fantastic attacking display during both halves that saw them win the game 5-0! The goal-scorers were Jordan Haylett (2 goals), Jordan Spann-Fell, Kai Harris & TJ Bull, and Jordan Haylett was awarded Man of the Match.

Following a 3-3 draw with Pent Valley, an impressive win against Folkestone Academy - where the team came from 2-0 down to win 4-2 - and a 5-2 win against the Harvey Grammar School, the team has won the League!



## BADMINTON TEAM OFF TO A FLYING START!

Both the Boys and Girls U14 badminton teams had a very successful season. The Girls U14 first team - Kvitka Mykhanchuk (captain), Rebecca Christmas, Charmian Simmons and Katie Pinn - travelled to The Folkestone Academy and won 5-0!

In the Boys U14, 1st, 2nd and 3rd teams played against Pent Valley and won 9-6! There were some great winning shots by Jake Harris and Brandon Crawford, and the winning team also included Isaac Tompkins, Frazer Owen, Shaine Taylor, Kieron Franks, Conor Walmsley, Jamie Rigden and the two youngest quality players Jordan Haylett and Louis Adamson - both in Year 7.

The U14 and U12 teams are in full-on preparation for the Kent Tournament on the 7th November at Angel Centre in Tonbridge, where the winning players will receive an individual trophy, whilst the U16 teams are anxious for their show down in January's inter-school tournament!

