

ASPIRE

THE MARSH ACADEMY NEWSLETTER TERM 3 - FEBRUARY 2011

Blue
Mini-School
Presents
Fundraising
Cheque to
RNLI



Kent Police
Roadshow asks
"Is It Worth It?"

Learning
from our
Community

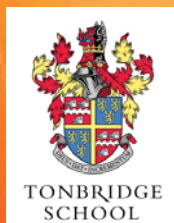
The Hoosiers,
Wonderland & Brooke
visit the Marsh Academy

March Exams
Timetable

Sporting Success in
Badminton, Rowing
and Football!

Working with
Tonbridge School

Microsoft



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

It is with great pleasure that we launch the next edition of *Aspire*. As you will see, we have had a very varied but enjoyable series of events to reward students for attendance and achievement, from a trip to see the musical *Wicked* to performances by *Wonderland* and *The Hoosiers*.

We also celebrate the fact that 35% of Year 11 students last year achieved at least 5 A*-C grade GCSEs, as confirmed by the school league tables - this exceeds all previous results at the school!

As you will have noticed our new building is progressing well and is on target - it is good to see it appearing at last.

We have also had some fantastic sporting achievements, with excellent results in badminton, indoor rowing and football.

We hope that you have a very enjoyable break and enjoy the longer, lighter days (and hopefully better weather)! We look forward to seeing you come back refreshed and ready to go!

Best wishes

Tracy Luke

Marion Emptage

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 month!

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

INFORMATION

Marsh Academy, Station Road, New Romney, TN28 8BB
t: 01797 364593 :: w: www.marshacademy.org.uk :: **Absence Line:** 01797 363594

Back to School: Monday 28th February 2011

Year 8 Parents' Evening: Tuesday 15th March 2011 (no extended day)

Year 8 Options Evening: Thursday 24th March 2011

Post-16 Parents' Evening: Tuesday 29th March 2011 (no extended day)

Easter Holiday: Monday 11th April to Monday 25th April 2011

ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION

Nearly 200 students from years 9, 10 and 11 were treated to a careers talk with a difference in November when the likes of 'Ant & Dec', 'Simon Cowell' and 'Dr Who' took to the stage to proclaim the importance of jobs in the Engineering Construction industry. Actors from Theatre&, working on behalf of the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB), spent nearly an hour spoofing some of the country's favourite TV shows to enthuse students and let them know just how many opportunities were available to them.

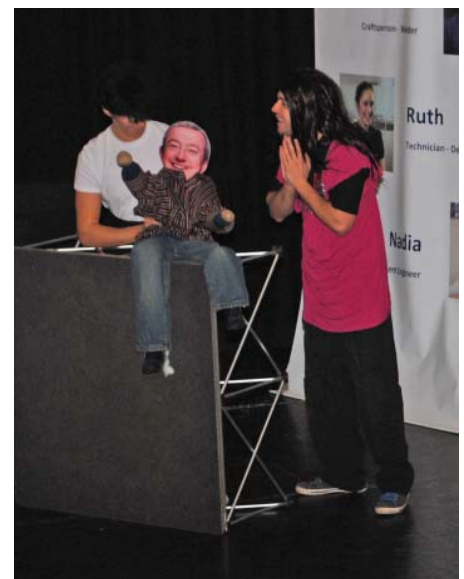
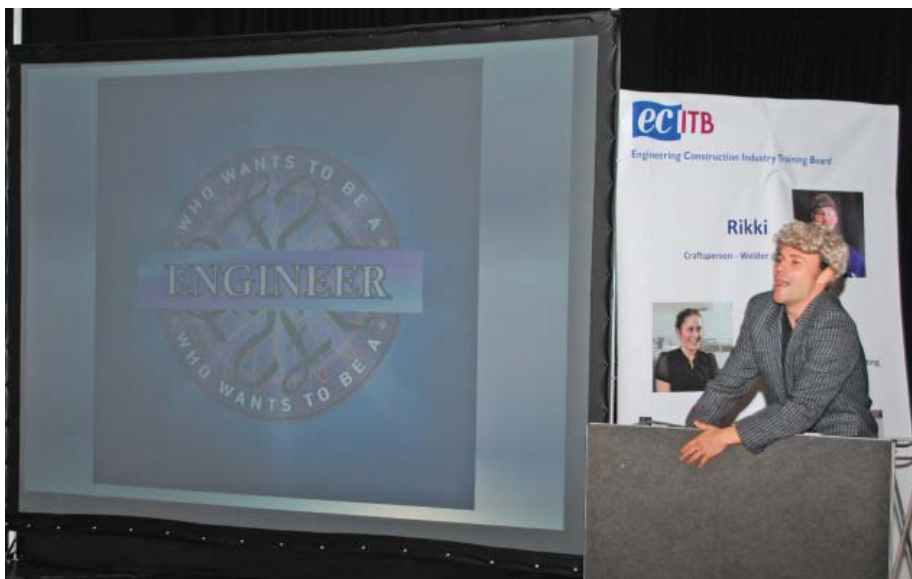
The students involved are all currently undertaking engineering and technology qualifications at the Marsh Academy, and the aim of the

presentation was to outline the wide variety of careers open to them as a result of taking those qualifications, as well as the best routes into those careers, including apprenticeships, and how to choose the career most suited to each individual.

Deputy Director of Learning for Technology, Robin Smout, said: "It's extremely important to us that students are aware of all of the options available to them when choosing their options in Year 8 and right the way through to when they leave school. The perception of careers in Engineering and Construction can sometimes be very different to the reality, as many of the jobs such as design and research are desk-based, rather than being on a jobsite. This



presentation was a fantastic way of getting important information across to our students in an engaging and entertaining way."



HOLIDAY ABSENCE REMINDER

We would like to remind parents and carers that, following Attendance and Behaviour Service advice, it is Marsh Academy policy not to authorise holidays in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. In the event of exceptional circumstances,

please ask for an "Application for Leave of Absence" form. If this absence is not agreed and you still take your child out of school, the absence will not be authorised and the Attendance and Behaviour Service may issue a penalty notice of £50 per child to each

parent. You are welcome to call the Academy and speak to the Attendance Officer if you would like to discuss whether or not a request is likely to be seen as exceptional circumstances for absence.

LEARNING FROM OUR COMMUNITY



Year 7 students have spent this term working on a joint Art and Dance project as part of a larger piece of work by Club Shepway and the Folkestone Triennial, looking at local history, in particular Doctor Syn and the smugglers.

In January, elderly residents joined students to share their tales of strange happenings and uncanny events across Romney Marsh in a Tall Tales Exchange!

Tall Tales is part of an on-going project by Club Shepway, a group of artists and writers, that seeks to “record the embellished truths and myths of

the British public”, which will then be transcribed into a compendium of regional folklore.

At the event, sixth-form art students had the opportunity to develop their photography skills, working with a professional photographer to photograph residents who had shared their stories, whilst year 7 students became journalists for the afternoon, interviewing residents to uncover their tales. Residents also enjoyed a cream tea before being led in a song entitled “Marsh Memories”, the lyrics of which were written by residents of Romney Marsh as part of a community project.

Two extremely successful skills exchanges have also been held to teach students the valuable skills of sewing, which will stand them in good stead for the future+. Older residents have been coming in to school to teach Year 7s and chat with them to pass on some of their knowledge.

The project will culminate in a performance and exhibition later in the year.

Mr Kenny and Miss Brown would like to thank all of the guests who have come in so far, without whom this project would not have been possible.



Art Students Learn About Marketing with Givaudan

Year 12 Art pupils visited the headquarters of Givaudan, a leading company in Flavours and Fragrances in Ashford, this term to meet the marketing team. They were given a design brief to work on that will be used as part of the company’s own corporate image, and Givaudan has generously offered £150 for the most successful image!



KS4 Artist of the Month
Jessica Burchell

MUSIC AT THE MARSH ACADEMY!



Students have been treated to three concerts this term to reward good attendance and behaviour and encourage students to raise their aspirations.

Singer Brooke, who has supported Taio Cruz, came to the school in January to perform for students. Whilst talking to students, Brooke emphasised the need to be determined to achieve your goals, as well as the importance of working hard in school!

In February, new girlband Wonderland performed for Year 7 students. The group, which is managed by Westlife's Kian Egan, is currently being played on Radio One and is tipped to be big this year, so

this was a great opportunity for our Year 7 students!

On 16th February, pop/rock band The Hoosiers, whose singles "Worried About Ray" and "Goodbye Mr A" both made the Top 5, put on an acoustic show for 150 of the Academy's top students. Those students with the best attendance and attainment were invited to the show and enjoyed an hour of music, questions and answers, and even had the chance to have photos with the band at the end of the show. The school was very privileged to have such a popular group come to visit, and rewards like this are excellent incentives for students to strive for strong attainment and attendance!



NEWS IN BRIEF

Year 10 students visited a Careers Fair at the Leas Cliff Hall on 9 February, whilst Post-16 students worked as stewards at the event. All students received praise from the organisers for their excellent attitude and behaviour throughout the event.

The Academy was mentioned in The Guardian this month! The article, entitled "Let's Move to Romney Marsh", highlighted that Ofsted described the Academy as "satisfactory and rapidly improving".

Free Charlton Athletic Community Trust Soccer Sessions for 10-19 year olds will take place at Dymchurch Rec on Tuesday nights from 8pm-9:30pm from 22nd February.

IS IT WORTH IT?



Students in Years 7-10 were asked "Is It Worth It?" this term when Kent Police brought a roadshow to the Academy. The show looked at anti-social behaviour - both what it is and its impact on others - as well as looking at the impact

of drugs and alcohol on crime levels. The roadshow was a fun, interactive chance for students to find out more about these important issues, and performances by new band NVS helped to ensure that the message really made its mark!

ART AWARDS



CANTEEN PRICE REVIEW

Please be aware that the canteen will be reviewing its menus and prices in the new term. More information will follow as soon as it is available.

Two Year 12 students have been recognised for excellence in Art by the University College Folkestone (UCF). The annual Creative Awards for Schools was set up by UCF to reward local pupils who demonstrate talent and commitment to the creative and performing arts. Gemma Linning and Madeleine Baksh received book tokens and certificates from the UCF Campus Director, Chris Price.

CHILDCARE WORK EXPERIENCE

"I have recently completed a week's placement at First Steps nursery in Palmershurst with children aged 2-4 years so that I could pass my course. I really enjoyed my placement and I gained a lot of experience and I enjoyed being able to communicate with all staff and children and not feel shy and uncomfortable. I would recommend this placement at First Steps to anyone going on a work placement and it's a great atmosphere to be involved with."

NCFE Working with Children and Young People Level 2 student.

WORKING WITH TONBRIDGE SCHOOL



Students from both the Marsh Academy and the Tonbridge School have been making the most of the links between the schools this term with projects to improve attainment in Maths, English and Economics.

Nine Post-16 students travelled to the Tonbridge School on 21st January to meet their e-mentoring partners. Students were

paired with another student taking A-Level English or Economics, and the students will remain in contact until their exams to support and guide each other.

In addition, 32 Year 10 students have taken part in Extended Day Maths workshops with teachers from Tonbridge to help develop and challenge their maths skills.

Getting In Touch

If you would like to discuss any issue about your child with someone at school, Student Development Leaders are the best people to contact in the first instance. They can then either deal with the issue themselves, or arrange to speak to other relevant members of staff to make sure the issue is resolved quickly and effectively.

The SDLs are:

Blue School: Andrea Friday

Green School: Vince Shell

Red School: Andrea Hutchens

Yellow School: Karen Todd

Post-16: Sue Brown

MARCH EXAMS 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	Duration	Examining Body	Code	Paper Title
Wed 02 Mar	09:00	00:30	EDEXL/GCSE	5016F1F	Structured Paper B2 (Biology)
Wed 02 Mar	09:00	00:30	EDEXL/GCSE	5016H1H	Structured Paper B2 (Biology)
Wed 02 Mar	09:00	00:30	EDEXL/GCSE	5018F1F	Structured Paper C2 (Chemistry)
Wed 02 Mar	09:00	00:30	EDEXL/GCSE	5018H1H	Structured Paper C2 (Chemistry)
Wed 02 Mar	09:00	00:30	EDEXL/GCSE	5020F1F	Structured Paper P2 (Physics)
Wed 02 Mar	09:00	00:30	EDEXL/GCSE	5020H1H	Structured Paper P2 (Physics)
Thu 03 Mar	09:00	00:20	EDEXL/GCSE	501501	Multiple Choice B2 (Biology)
Thu 03 Mar	09:00	00:20	EDEXL/GCSE	501701	Multiple Choice C2 (Chemistry)
Thu 03 Mar	09:00	00:20	EDEXL/GCSE	501901	Multiple Choice P2 (Physics)
Fri 04 Mar	09:00	00:20	EDEXL/GCSE	500501	Unit B1A (Biology)
Fri 04 Mar	09:00	00:20	EDEXL/GCSE	500601	Unit B1B (Biology)
Fri 04 Mar	09:00	00:20	EDEXL/GCSE	500701	Unit C1A (Chemistry)
Fri 04 Mar	09:00	00:20	EDEXL/GCSE	500801	Unit C1B (Chemistry)
Fri 04 Mar	09:00	00:20	EDEXL/GCSE	500901	Unit P1A (Physics)
Fri 04 Mar	09:00	00:20	EDEXL/GCSE	501001	Unit P1B (Physics)



KS3 Artist of the Month
Billy Adlington

WORLD MATHS DAY

World Maths Day is here again, so get ready for Tuesday 1st March when we join students from across the globe to set a world record in answering mental arithmetic questions. Last year saw more than 2 million students from 235 countries taking part and together we correctly answered 479,732,613 questions! Your maths teacher will register you in your classes and issue you with a username and password; you can start practising as soon as you have these.

So as of 8th February you can start playing and see if we can together create another new world record and beat our school total from 2010 of 110,062 correct answers!

NEW BUILD UPDATE

As you may have seen, the new build is well underway, with the steel frame now complete and all concrete slabs now cast.

Roofing and external cladding have now started, whilst the internal fit-out is scheduled to begin in March.

All of this means that we are still on track to move into our fantastic new building in January 2012!



RNLI BENEFITS FROM MINI-SCHOOL EFFORTS

The Head Boy, Head Girl and Student Council Representative from Blue Mini-School visited Littlestone Lifeboat Station in February to present a cheque for £488.89 to the RNLI. Blue Mini-School students raised the money through bucket shakes, non-uniform days, a cake sale and a sponsored silence. Earlier in the term, Danny Edwards from the RNLI visited the Academy to deliver a presentation to students to let them know where the money they had raised will go, and to show them the important work that they carry out.



BOOK FAIR

The importance of reading was emphasised to students in the last week of term when a book fair was held in the library. As part of the book fair, author Ian Macdonald visited two Project-Based Learning classes (right).

The Scholastic Book Fair was a reading event held in school for everyone to enjoy. Mobile bookcases packed with the best books to sell to pupils were brought into school to help students develop a love for reading.

There were over 200 titles from over fifty publishers chosen to reflect all tastes and abilities, and there were exclusive titles available that couldn't be found in shops!

At the end of the fair the school benefits by getting free books to have in the library so



that pupils have the chance to take them out at their leisure.

Book week also saw students taking part in competitions to create the best short story, book cover or bookmark. The winners of each competition will receive book tokens,

whilst the winner of a nationwide competition to create the "creepiest creature ever" will win a classroom visit from a crocodile handler who will bring with them a range of real-life creepy creatures, from spiders and snakes to crocodiles!

ROWING TO SUCCESS!

20 students travelled to Canterbury on 9th February to take part in the Kent Indoor Rowing Championships 2011 for the first time in the school's history, and walked away with 5 medals!

The Championships were held at the Simon Langton Boys School, with students from 21 schools taking part in 22 races over the day. The Marsh Academy was the only school from Shepway represented at the Championships and proved to be a force to be reckoned with, achieving its first medal in the third race. Andrew O'Connell rowed 804 metres in just three minutes to take third place in the Year 8 Boys race. This triumph was immediately followed by a first place finish for Shannon Blackman in the Year 8 Girls race when she rowed 766 metres in 3

minutes. Shannon kept spectators on the edge of their seats as she battled with a fellow competitor from Maidstone Grammar School for Girls, eventually securing the win by just one metre!

In the Year 9 Boys race, Tom Curd narrowly missed out on a medal, rowing just 9 metres fewer than the 3rd place competitor, whilst Amy Briffitt also finished 4th in the Year 9 Girls race.



There was more success in the Year 12 races, with 17-year-old James White taking 2nd place in the Year 12 Boys Open race, rowing 2000 metres in 6 minutes 56 seconds. Trish McKinley, also 17, then rowed 2000 metres in 8 minutes 11 seconds to take first place in the Year 12 Girls Lightweight race.



The Academy's day was rounded off in the best possible way with a win in the Year 12/13 Girls Team race, the final race of the day! Congratulations to everyone who took part!

SUPPORTING THE ACADEMY'S SPORTING STARS!

Two of Romney Marsh's brightest sports stars have received a helping hand to further their ambitions thanks to sponsorship from the Marsh Academy. Oliver Daws and China-Mae Hutton, both 13, were presented their cheques by the Executive Principal, Tracy Luke, in the first week of the new term ready to kick-start another year of sporting glory!

China-Mae experienced huge success in martial arts during 2010, not only winning two national titles at the National All Styles UK Championships in December 2010, but being crowned European Champion in Team Kata at the World United Martial Arts Federation

competition in June 2010. The Academy was keen to help China-Mae progress even further, and awarded her £250 towards the cost of entering future competitions, including the European and World Championships. China-Mae said: "I really hope to win titles at the World Championships and the UK Championships this year, and this sponsorship will really help as it will help cover the cost of entering all of the qualifying rounds."

A cheque for £200 was the second instalment of the school's sponsorship for Ollie Daws, whose achievements in golf continue to impress! Since his initial sponsorship by the Academy in April 2010, Ollie has represented the Academy at the English Schools Championships, captained the Kent Under 13 Boys, and played for the Kent Under 16 Boys. In 2010, Ollie came 3rd in a European Under-13 Boys competition, and was part of the Littlestone Golf Club Under-18s team that

made it to the National Junior League Team final! Ollie also successfully completed a trial to win a place in the England South East Region Under-18s squad. This further sponsorship by the Academy will help to pay for Ollie's travel to competitions around the country as he pursues further success! Ollie said "I'm really happy about the school sponsoring the cost of entering the competitions, and I hope to win the European Boys Championships this year!"

Executive Principal Tracy Luke said: "We are extremely proud to have such amazing students at the Marsh Academy, and we are only too pleased to help them."



SPORTS LEADERS IN ACTION



Young sports leaders from the Marsh Academy had the chance to put their skills to good use when they helped to run a Multi-Skills festival for 120 year 1 and 2 students from St Nicholas, Dymchurch, Greatstone and Lyminge

primary schools.

The students, who were from year 8 to Post-16, were responsible for demonstrating tasks to primary students, keeping track of scores and helping youngsters around the

activities, which included space hopper relays, sliding through tunnels and dribbling basketballs!

The event was organised by Andre Double, the Academy's Schools Sports Coordinator.

SPORT



The Marsh Academy badminton team travelled to the University of Kent on 13th January to take part in the East Kent County Finals. 5 schools were represented in both the boys and girls categories, and our teams really made their mark! The girls team (Kvitka Mykhan-chuk, Charmian Simmons, Katie Pinn and Rebecca Christmas) came second overall, whilst the boys (Joshua Smith, Samuel Haylett, Daniel Blake and Rhys Morison) came third despite having to forfeit a match to get back to school in time for an exam!

Ten year 7 badminton players had the chance to show off their skills on 5th February when they were involved in a 7 hour

badminton drill in Sandwich! They put on a beautiful display of skills at the tournament. Georgia Covington and Jodie Chandler were the Runners-Up in the Under 13 Girls Doubles. The boys had a much tougher games, but they didn't make it easy for others!

Marsh Academy students once again have given themselves a huge boost in confidence and were excellent representatives of the Academy. Congratulations to them all!



YEAR 10 FOOTBALL

The Year 10 Football Team performed outstandingly this term, making it to the Quarter Finals of the Kent Schools Football Association Under 15 Portex Trophy! The team had seen off the John Wallis Academy, the Harvey Grammar School, Sandwich Technology School, and Hartsdown to get to the quarter-finals, but despite a valiant effort, the team lost 2-0 to Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys. The team did a fantastic job to get so far, and we look forward to seeing how they get on next year!