



### **Message from the Principal**

First of all, Happy New Year and our very best wishes to all of you for 2009!

Our second term as an Academy is a time to consolidate the work of our first term as well as working industriously upon our future results and areas for success. With this in mind, I think it is timely to remind students and parents of our policy with regard to uniform. Firstly, I have to say how impressed I personally am with regard to our students' regard for uniform and obviously how supportive you are (as parents / carers) of our new uniform.

A reminder of our uniform is below and may I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

My thanks,

#### **Uniform Details:**

Black Blazer with Academy Logo  
Plain white school shirt  
School Tie  
Plain black skirt or trousers

Plain black socks  
Plain black or skin coloured tights  
Plain black sweater / cardigan (optional)  
Plain black sensible shoes

**NO** hooded tops, hats, caps or denim

**NO** jewellery on grounds of safety and security (except for watches and one small plain sleeper or stud for pierced ears, no more than one per ear). Nose studs, tongue studs and other facial piercings are not allowed.

Discreet make-up is permitted.

Hair should be neat and tidy. Extreme or "attention seeking" styles are not suitable. Coloured hair braids are not acceptable.

#### **PE Kit:**

Short sleeved polo shirt with school logo  
Boys PE rugby top with school logo  
Girls PE Fleece with school logo  
Black shorts  
Long black socks

Short white socks  
Football or hockey boots  
Trainers  
Black tracksuit (optional)

The following items **MUST** be purchased from the school office: School Blazer, School Tie, Unisex PE Polo shirt with logo, Boys PE rugby top with logo, Girls PE fleece with logo.

#### **Ties**

Should a student need to borrow a tie from Student Services and not return it, he or she will in future be required to replace it at a cost of £3.00. This is due to us having to replace our reserves. Thanks for your support. Mr Pulman

#### **Nail Varnish**

The NRA can accept students wearing clear nail varnish - for nail protection - but coloured nail varnish is unacceptable.  
Thank you for your support.  
Mr Pulman

#### **Science Exams**

There will be a Science Dept Breakfast Club on Monday 12 January at 7.45 a.m. for all pupils in years 10 and 11 taking their GCSE Biology exam on Monday - breakfast will be provided. This is a chance to discuss any last minute questions before the exam.

The Science Dept looks forward to seeing you and wishes you the best of luck in your exams.

Exam Dates are as follows:

Monday 12 January - Biology  
Thursday 15 January - Chemistry  
Monday 19 January - Physics

All students taking exams will have received a statement of entry.

Miss Gayner

#### **Year 7 Snooker Match NRA -v- The Maltings**

Before Christmas six Year 7 pupils were taken to play a snooker match versus the Maltings. The boys did exceptionally well and enjoyed it so much that a re-match will have to be organised. The score finished 3-3 with George Bassett winning "Shot of the Tournament". The boys who took part are Ashley Strode, Joe Colton, Blake Smith, George Bassett, Callum Vanstone and Chase Hedges.

Well done to them all.

Mr Wright

## Attendance

Students who achieved 100% attendance from 13 October to end of the Term were entered into a prize draw to win an I-Pod Shuffle. I am really pleased to say that we had a good number of students who did achieve this which is fantastic and well done to you all!

The winners are:

Year 7 - Shaun Whent  
Year 8 - Harrison Rutland  
Year 9 - Joshua Baker  
Year 10 - Ria Amodio  
Year 11 - Kieran Guinan



YEAR 8 WINNER:  
Harrison Rutland



YEAR 10 WINNER  
Ria Amodio



YEAR 7 WINNER  
Shaun Whent

On Thursday 18 December after school, the best tutor groups for attendance from Years 7 & 8 were taken on a reward trip for a game of Bowling. The best tutor group from Year 7 was 7S and the best tutor group from Year 8 Was 8S.

A good time was had by all and this was a well deserved treat for those groups. The next trip will be at the end of this term for Years 9 & 10 so remember, if you do not attend school, your tutor group is affected as well. Year 11 have individual targets for money towards their prom and updated figures will be available for them to see if they are on target.

## Sixth Form Attendance Rewards

100% attendance in Sixth Form, each term, qualifies students to be entered into a draw to win £50 of vouchers of their choice.

**“BE IN TO WIN”**

Attached to this week's Academy News is some information originally published by Essex County Council about improving your child's attendance. At NRA we are committed to providing the best possible opportunities for students - the better your child's attendance, the better they will do. Our target of 92% attendance at Christmas 2008 was achieved - congratulations and thank you to all students and parents and carers for making it happen. Our challenge for this term at the Academy is to reach 93% attendance. Please take the time to read the enclosed information - I hope it helps to put into perspective the importance of regular attendance.

Mr D Zeffie, Vice Principal

## Year 10 Charity Week

Year 10 held their Charity Week just before Christmas. Events and activities included a Christmas Fayre, hand and arm massages, raffles, make-up and hair demonstrations, home-made cards and cake sales as well as games and activities around the Academy. The students donated prizes, cakes, sweets etc themselves and all activities and preparations were carried out during lunch and breaktimes or before and after school.

**£735 was raised plus £350 for non-uniform day giving a fantastic total amount of almost £1100.**

The money will go to this year's Academy Charity, which is the Children's Ward at Broomfield Hospital.

This amazing result would not have been achieved without the encouragement and support of year 10 tutors, the hard work, enthusiasm and commitment of the students and the generosity of staff, students and parents who donated to and participated in the events.

Many thanks to all and Well Done Year 10!

**Mrs Mott**

## Poetry GCSE Live

Year 11s went to Poetry Live in London on 1 December. Nikita Walker was one of them and here is her version of events:

*“On Friday the 1<sup>st</sup> of December a group of year elevens visited London to watch GCSE poetry live with Mr Brayley, Mrs Bower and Mr Wilson. They arrived at the Mission Hall in central London at 10 o'clock and were taken into the hall. They were seated at the front of the hall and had a really good view. Poetry Live is an event where poets who are featured in the AQA exam anthology read and discuss their poems with students from across the country.*

*The first poet who performed her poem was Gillian Clarke. Gillian Clarke is a Welsh poet who writes in English. She was brought up in a Welsh family in Cardiff and although she now speaks fluent Welsh her upbringing was English-speaking. The poems she performed were Catrin, Baby-sitting, The Field Mouse and On the Train.*

*We then had an examiner come on who was called Peter Buckroyd. He told us what GCSE exams are like, what not to do and what to remember.*

*The next poet who performed was Carol Ann Duffy. Carol Anne Duffy was born in Glasgow in 1965 into what was once called a working-class family. Her first poetry collection was published in 1985. The poems she performed were Havisham, Elvis's Twin Sister and the last poem she performed was Anne Hathaway.*

*Simon Armitage was the next poet to perform. He started with a new poem called Luddendon Foot which was extremely funny; this poem was not in the programme that everyone was handed when they entered the Mission Hall. The poem he performed was Kid.*

*Imtiaz Dharder was the next poet to perform, This Room was the poem she performed and she also performed some of her new poems.*

*John Agard was the audience's favourite! The hall erupted with applause as he entered the stage. He was wonderful and read his magical poem 'Half Caste'. Year Eleven had a very productive day and were especially pleased that Mr Norman Wilson, Chair of Governors, joined them for the day!”*



## The Big Sing

On 27 November we took part in the attempt to break a world record in conjunction with Music for Youth. Most of Year 7, the choir and music students from years 10 - 13 sang and we registered 171 students. We were fortunate to have a live feed from the O<sub>2</sub> Arena and we started at exactly 2.45 p.m. I would like to thank Mr Lovell and Mr Hermon for their help on the day and PC Crysell and Mr Wilson, Chair of Governors, for witnessing the event.

Some Comments from the Students:

*“I had been looking forward to the Big Sing for a while and when the day arrived it was really exciting, the atmosphere was so lively” (Jasmin Hermon Year 12)*

*“It was fantastic and quite scary but overall I felt proud to be part of such a fantastic choir” (Lauren Hatch 7C)*

Miss Mudge

## ART

Students studying for their GCSE qualification in Art and Design recently completed their mock exam. This exam took place over two days of intense creativity and hard work at the close of last term. Students developed their ideas for a final piece over a period of six weeks, exploring a number of techniques appropriate to their intentions. Some students had very little time to master new techniques, many of which were completely unknown to them before the exam paper was released. The majority of year 11 art students have consistently demonstrated their commitment and enthusiasm for art in their lessons. Over the two days the Art Department felt like a really creative studio space, this being promoted by the maturity and skilful use of time demonstrated by the vast majority of those students present. This is not the end of the creativity and hard work as students now have to complete their two units of coursework. The terminal exam is released early March so it is still all systems go.

Well done to all those art students who continue to contribute to the creative atmosphere within the art department. The images include the work of Emily Lyndon, Hannah Bonnington, Christian Dewey, Robert Stagg, Gemma Black and Louise Lachance.

Mr D Fisher



## The Beavis Partnership Solicitors

Are you looking for legal advice ?

We will be offering a **FREE** initial consultation service at a clinic\* being held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the New Rickstones Academy (Community Entrance)

Advice will be available on Family/Domestic Problems, Employment Issues, Civil Claims Wills & Probate Matters

\* Future clinics will be held on the second Wednesday of each following month

### Expensive Christmas Presents

If students received expensive mobile phones / mp3 players etc for Christmas we recommend that these are NOT brought to school as should they be lost or damaged we would be unable to accept responsibility.

Thank you.

### Staff Vacancy

We are looking for a cleaner to support our team for 6 hours per day.  
Hours: 5.00 a.m. to 8.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. term time only.  
A full CRB check will be carried out.  
Salary £8,202 per annum.  
For further details please contact Mrs Wright at the Academy

### Performing Arts

Gifted and Talented Dance Trip to Laban is next Friday 16th January. Please ensure that reply slips are returned to Mrs Davis by Monday 12 January at the latest. This is a joint trip with the Maltings Academy.

### We Will Rock You - 11 weeks and counting!

Full cast singing rehearsal in the Hall on Monday 12 January 3.30 sharp until 4.30 p.m. (includes BTEC students) All Super Yuppies and Killer Queen to 5.00 p.m. Cats should have received an information booklet and attendance contract. Contract to be returned to Mrs Davis asap.

West End professionals visiting NRA on Tuesday 13th January - an exciting day of rock workshops for lead roles and bohemians.