



Evesham High School

Specialist Sports, Maths and Computing College
ADVANCING LEARNING IN PARTNERSHIP

September 2011

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents, Students, Friends of Evesham High School

Summer Results

Welcome to the start of another school year, and what a year it's been already! As a federation with Simon de Montfort Middle School we had already cause to celebrate the summer's Key Stage 2 results before we broke up for the summer holidays (and congratulations again to Blackminster too for their good results). So we are very pleased to be celebrating a fantastic year of **results** for Evesham High School as well. Not only have we broken through the 70% barrier once again for the number of students achieving 5 A* grades to C at GCSE, but we also broke the 50% for our 5 A-Cs including English and Maths and at 57% we beat our target for the percentage of students making good progress by 9%: that's an outstanding set of results for this year.

We also had 100% pass rate for our A Level and equivalent students and all who wanted to go on to university have secured places. We are all very proud of our students' achievements and I am very proud of the staff's commitment and determination to get the best out of our students and raise standards.

Just to make the start of year even more exciting, one week into term, halfway through a two-week timetable, we get the call from **OFSTED**. They visited us on Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 September; five inspectors. I am very pleased to report to you that they have judged Evesham High School as **Good**. Both students and staff deserve a lot of praise for their team spirit and openness with the inspection team. Thank you to all parents who responded to the Ofsted questionnaire as well.

Key judgements include:

- *"Students learn in an environment that encourages and enables them to do more than just what is expected."*
- *Students make progress because "they experience effective teaching, a varied and appropriate curriculum and are cared for and supported well."*
- *"Students' attendance is high" (this is over a three year period, not just the first week of this term!). "The school has "good capacity for sustained improvement"*
- *"Students' good moral and social development is apparent in the respect they show for each other and their teachers contribute well to their positive behaviour".*
- *"These opportunities to apply and develop their personal skills as well as students' excellent attendance, increasingly good achievement and their secure knowledge of what they need to do to succeed mean that they are prepared well for the future".*
- *Sixth Form "the inclusive ethos of the school extends very much to this Key Stage. Students who may otherwise have left education stay on into the Sixth Form and do well as a result of the increasing range of courses available to them".*

What we need to do to improve further:

- *"increase the proportion of Good and Better lessons by ensuring equally high challenge for all students and by sharing best practice, and in the Sixth Form increasing the rates of progress for all students to Good".*

Obviously this is a huge boost to the school's confidence that our work is recognised as good against national standards, but I hope that it gives you increased confidence in placing your child's education in our care. The full report is available on the website. If you do not have access to the internet, please get in touch with the main office and we will supply you with one.

Welcomes

Congratulations to our new Year 9s and Year 12s for settling in so quickly. They look very smart in the new school uniform. I am also pleased with the way they have been welcomed by the other year groups; the new Vertical Tutoring system is helping everyone to get to know each other quicker across the years and has had a very successful start. I would also like to welcome to the school Mr Phil Humphreys, our new Deputy, Miss Hayley Roland, Second in English, Miss Denise Jacobs, English and Tutor at Simon de Montfort, Mr Paul Gorman and Mr Hywel Potheary, Science and Mrs Rebecca Beaumont, Examinations Officer. We hope that all new staff and new students really enjoy and benefit from their time at Evesham High

School.

And if all that wasn't quite enough excitement for the first three weeks of term, I am also very pleased to say that our Green Team won the Silver Award in the Evesham *Britain in Bloom* schools category. Congratulations also to St Richard's First School who won the Gold Award and Simon de Montfort Middle School who got a special commendation award for the Brook Project. Well done to all students, staff and parents in helping to make our schools even nicer environments to work in.

Farewell

And finally, we say farewell to Mr Curtis, our Premises Manager, who has worked at EHS for eight years. Thank you for all the work and effort to ensure that the school has been a pleasant place to work in and all the best in retirement and a new life of leisure.

Yours sincerely

Ms C J Browne
Headteacher

Welcome to our New Year 9

The Lead Tutors, Tutor teams and staff welcome all Year 9 students to Evesham High and we look forward to working with them towards a successful future. Already I have been impressed with their positive attitude and the high standards they have been setting and this has been confirmed by numerous comments from teachers. I am very pleased to announce that their attendance is currently outstanding, indicating that they are enjoying coming to school. The uniform standards are very good with the girls looking extremely smart in their new uniform. Behaviour and personal achievements are also good, resulting in a high number of merits being awarded. I had asked that they give their best efforts to enable them to reach their goals and this has begun.

Well done to all concerned, it has been a great start; keep this up!

Note: Year 9 Parents Evening with Tutors, Thursday, 20 October

Mr Davis, Transition & Liaison

Attendance - On target, with more to come!



We have had another successful year with attendance at EHS, where students have achieved an overall attendance figure of 94.1%, above our target and the national average. Clearly our students are enjoying attending school and are looking to achieve their best. Well done and can I thank all students, parents and guardians for their support in ensuring a good attendance to lessons and school.

I would particularly like to mention an ex Year 11 student, Reuben Grace, who whilst at EHS did not miss any time in the whole of Years 9, 10 or 11. Well done!

In our recent Ofsted inspection the school's attendance was highlighted as being very successful and classified as Outstanding.

Following this we are aiming to go a step further and improve to our new target of 95%. To do this may I ask parents to avoid holidays in term time and ensure that your son/daughter attend every possible session. Good attendance in lessons increases the opportunity of achievement in results. I have no doubt with a continued focus we can achieve our best! Parents and guardians can also actively monitor their child's attendance by using the Parental Portal on Frog.

Current Attendance figure = 96.2%

Houses: Bronte - 96.1%, Darwin - 96.0%, Nightingale - 95.5%, Redgrave - 96.8%.

Mr Hearing, Key Phase Upper Leader

New Building Works

Phase 1

Sports Science Classroom, Weights Room and Sports Hall Entrance

As at 23rd September a lot of activity is taking place internally and all is shaping up nicely.

The Sports Science Room will be used by Drama for the remainder of the year whilst the new Arts Block is built.

Phase 2

Arts Music/Drama

The ground works commenced on Monday 26th September and we look forward to seeing how all develops.

All is planned for a summer completion.

Phase 3

Dining Extension

These works are planned for this winter, official start date to be agreed.

Mr Cox, Capital Premises Project

Homework

At Evesham High we see homework as an important part of the learning process. To be effective homework should be set because it has meaningful purpose in relation to the learning and not just because it is on a timetable.

To achieve this last year we introduced a new approach where, for most subjects, main homework tasks were set for each half term. These were combined with smaller homework tasks set to consolidate or develop work from lessons. It is our intention to continue with this system.

Overall time allocations for subjects will remain the same as in previous years, but this initiative supported a more creative and flexible approach to the setting of homework. We will be reviewing the current system this term and would welcome feedback from parents. Please pass your thoughts to me via the school email or in writing via the school office.

Information on the main homework tasks to be set during the Autumn Term for each Year Group and subject, can be found on the EHS website under *Information*. If you do not have access to the website, then a hard copy can be requested through the school.

Mrs Button, Deputy Head

LUNCHTIME ASSISTANT

Evesham High School requires a Lunchtime Assistant to:

Supervise and direct students in the dining hall environment.

Assist with cleaning and moving of furniture before and after lunch. The position involves some light lifting.

The ideal candidate will be able to deal with students in a cheerful and confident manner.

Hours are 12.25 pm to 1.55 pm, Monday to Friday, term time only.

Salary: £2109 - £2295 per annum.

An application form can be obtained from the school website (jobs) or from Mrs C Perry, Head's PA. Completed applications should be returned to cperry@eveshamhigh.worcs.sch.uk or returned to Evesham High School.

Closing date for applications: Thursday 6 October 2011

The school is committed to safeguarding the welfare of students.

An Enhanced CRB check will be required.

Mrs Perry

Cycling to School

Pupils may cycle to school, provided that their cycles are roadworthy and they obey the school rules with regard to cycling. There is a cycle shed in school which is generally locked during lesson times. Whilst reasonable precautions are taken to provide safe storage, the school cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to cycles.

Students should:

- Always lock their bike up securely in the cycle shed. (Combination locks are not always sturdy and reliable, the following are recommended: 'D' shackles with combination keys or reinforced wire locks.)

- Engrave their postcode on their bike to help the police prove ownership when stolen bikes are recovered.

We would remind all students of the importance of wearing safety helmets when cycling.

Mr Curtis, Premises Manager

FINANCE NOTICES

School Fund 2011-2012

As you will know there are many items which improve life in school but are not covered by finance provided by the Local Education Authority. Many schools, in addition to fundraising by Parent-Teacher Associations, run a school fund to assist with the purchase of such items. In recent years we have used school fund to provide common rooms, new lockers, multi-gym fitness equipment, the upkeep of the school minibus, refurbishing and carpeting of the Library and many other things which improve the students' experiences and environment.

School fund is £5.00 per student, per year, payable at the beginning of the school year. Any contributions are most welcome and gratefully received. Cheques should be made payable to Evesham High School. School fund should be taken to the Finance Office on the first floor of the Humanities Block. Payment is preferred on line via debit or credit card via: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/payments4schools>

Guidelines for Parents on Payments for School Activities

It would be most helpful if the following guidelines could be followed:

1. Cheques are preferred to cash and should be made payable to Evesham High School with the student's name, tutor group and the event written on the back of the cheque. Payment should be taken to the Finance Office.

2. The Finance Office will be open for students to make payments before school (9-9.15am), at break time (10.55-11.15am) and at lunchtime (12.55-1.45pm).

3. Where several payments are involved eg hockey or skiing trips, there will be a payment card system which will act as a receipt, and such cards should always be sent with payments.

4. The School Finance Office is now able to accept payments for School Trips, Music Lessons etc via credit and debit cards. Details have been sent home to all parents, please contact school if you haven't received this. The link to the payment site is: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/payments4schools>.

Miss Lloyd, Sr Finance Officer

Academic Year 2012 –13

Holiday	School Closes on	School Re-opens on
Autumn Term		Tuesday 4 th September 2012
Autumn Half Term	Friday 26 th October 2012	Monday 5 th November 2012
Christmas	Thursday 20 th December 2012	Tuesday 8 th January 2013
Spring Half Term	Friday 15 th February 2013	Monday 25 th February 2013
Easter	Thursday 28 th March 2013	Monday 15 th April 2013
Bank Holiday	Monday 6 th May 2013	
Summer Half Term	Friday 24 th May 2013	Monday 3 rd June 2013
Summer	Wednesday 24 th July 2013	

Good Friday - Friday 29th March 2013

Easter Monday - Monday 1st April 2013

Whitsun Bank Holiday - Monday 27th May 2013

Please note:

The County has set two Teacher Education Days for: Monday 3rd September 2012 & Monday 7th January 2013 and three further days to be set by the school are **provisionally** Friday 26 October, Monday 26 November, 2012 and Friday 21 June 2013.

Learning Ambassadors

Evesham High School students are about to undertake research in lessons taught by their own teachers. The idea is for both students and teachers to gain a different perspective on the learning process.

The student learning ambassadors will work in pairs gathering evidence on different aspects of learning; including the impact of resources, classroom layout and the engagement of students as well as their own experience of participating in the class.

Afterwards they interview class students of varying abilities and present their findings and feedback to the class teacher.

The process is beneficial to both teachers and students. By listening to the feedback from the students' perspective, teachers can reflect on the findings and gain valuable insights to aid them in their future planning and because the students are actively involved in understanding what it means to be a good learner, they themselves will get a better understanding of what the teacher is trying to do.

The students and teachers involved in the research are all volunteers and the student Learning Ambassadors have all taken part in a rigorous training programme to prepare them.

This what students said about the training:

- *The training session was informative and it was good to be able to share your ideas with other students* – Rebekah Goodwin, Yr 10

- *I am really looking forward to researching how lessons work and why teachers do certain things to create an impact* – Luke Smith, Yr 11

The first research day will take place on 12th October and will be a termly event.



Mrs Hearing

Let's Grow Vouchers.

We are collecting Morrison's Let's Grow vouchers again this year. Please send these into school and place in the collection boxes provided. Thank you.

Learning to Lead News

LtoL is made up groups of students that have an interest in making a difference in the school and local community. We would like to see even more students taking part in either the current groups, or how about setting up your own? Here is just a bit of what students in LtoL have been doing:

BBC School News Report



Last year a small group of students took part in the BBC School News Report for the first time at our school. This year, we are going to take part again but want to involve even more students! If you have an interest in media, journalism, writing, filming, editing and would like to take part please watch out for more news soon. We can't wait!

Garden Team

They have had a successful spring/summer of growing not just produce but also flowers. They are currently selling the last of the produce and then getting the garden ready for winter. Once that is finished, it is time to then start using their polytunnel for the first time.

***Last minute news: This year the Garden Team took part in Schools in Bloom. Three students went to an awards ceremony and found out that the team won a silver award for their efforts. Well done!*

Community Team

They are our newest team and are currently looking into different things that students could be taking part in out in the community. Looking forward to see what they come up with!

Green Team

While all teams are always looking for more students to take part, the Green Team is especially looking for students from years 9 to 11 to join in. If you have an interest in sustainability and eco projects, please join in.

Mrs Cooper

Holland Tour

In the penultimate week of the summer term, the school's choir and orchestra set off for an exciting tour of Holland. After an exhausting journey we arrived at the beautiful town Noordwijk-an-Zee. The torrential rain did not put us off a visit to the local golf course and a walk along the seafront.

Our second day took us to Delft, a traditional Dutch town where we performed in the market square to a large crowd of enthusiastic tourists. We took a tour of a windmill and a boat ride through the canals of Leiden. Both these places gave us a fascinating insight into the Dutch culture.

The next day we visited Walibi World (a local theme park) where we all had a fantastic time except Mr Johnson who spent most of his morning queuing for one of the scariest rides which had unfortunately got stuck! That evening we did our second concert in a theatre at a holiday park. The audience were very appreciative as we entertained them on such a miserably wet evening.

Everyone really enjoyed themselves - such a pity we were only there for a short time. A big thank you to Mr Johnson and Mrs Powell for organising the trip.

Luke Smith, Yr11

Poetry Matters 2011

Our poets have now officially been published! 'Poetry Matters 2011' contains poems from several students in the school and a copy can be found in the school library.

We look forward to more creative and imaginative writing from our talented students!

Mrs Lippett

The Sad End

No pennies in his pocket,
But there beholds a locket,
Shaped like a heart,
His life had still yet to start.
Blood stains on his black jacket,
And crumbs from his baguette,
Toughened look on his pale face,
To match his dull shoelace.
It appears he didn't smoke,
Perhaps his life was a joke,
No branded marks on his skin,
But in life he did not win.
Beer-smelling breath,
Could be related to his death,
Come out of a club,
Still eating his grub?
Torn photo of his wife,
The only love of his life,
His heart, it would not mend,
His life has come to an end.

Jade Sewell, Yr10

Sometimes

Sometimes things disappear faster than they started.
It can days, weeks, years, just to figure out where your heart is.
The days are long, dark and cold,
You're sick and tired of being told.
I know there's good times behind the bad.
You feel like nothing but you still have your say.
You may feel guilt, hurt, disgrace, anger and envy at that 'popular' girl's face.
You may feel lonely frightened, scared.
I just want you to remember, there's no truth in 'nobody cares'.
There's always competition being the best, being right.
Changing yourself for somebody else's delight.
You feel safe and out of sight,
Standing alone waiting for the night.
Behind those eyes a different person waiting to come out.
You're not alone, a promise from the heart,
You are still that person you were from the start.
Behind the pain, lost urge to fight.
Is someone strong and ready, alive in the night,
Behind the dark and tears and grey,
Is the peace, love and happiness of another day.
You might look back, think nobody understands me
Turns out really you were talking another language.
So take my hand, let me stay, I'll show you something new,
Happiness and laughter, seas of blue.
A new life, a new start, a brand new day.
You can do it and I'll be there to stay.

Beth Jones

UNIFORM

The Department for Education website states:

The Government's Five-Year Strategy for children and learners recognises that school uniforms can help improve behaviour and attendance. School uniforms help to define the ethos of a school and the standards expected. They help give students pride in their school and make them ambassadors for their school in a community.

At Evesham High School we believe that the wearing of uniform, in the correct way, is an important part of the 'community' ethos we are establishing through Vertical Tutoring. We are delighted with the initial response of students to this latest push and I am sure that we can rely upon both students and parents to support us in our efforts to enforce the uniform code in the future.

Could I also take this opportunity to reinforce our policy regarding jewellery. The expectations are as follows:

- **No** nose, eyebrow or tongue piercings or facial piercings of any kind
- Maximum one stud or close fitting sleeper in each ear
- One ring only may be worn

This is how we would like all our students to wear their uniform:



Diary Dates

Open Evening (for Yr 8 parents)	- Thursday 13 October at 7pm
Half Term:	- Monday 24 to Friday 28 October
Teacher Training Days 2011/12:	- Friday 21 October, Monday 28 November, Friday 9 March and Friday 22 June
Y9 Parents Evening	- Thursday 20 October
Sixth Form Options Evening	- Thursday 17 November

