

Issue 1, Autumn 2011

# Outlook

The news magazine of The Sutton Academy

## Supporting the community

The Sutton Academy  
plays host to the  
Citizens Advice Bureau

In this issue...



In step with dance



Super Learning Day

# Celebration of our achievements

WELCOME to our new Academy magazine. I hope you enjoy reading about some of the activities and events that make The Sutton Academy such a special place.

As a genuine learning community, we like to celebrate the achievements and aspirations of all our students and committed partners. I am extremely proud of the work that takes place both within and outside the Academy to provide fantastic opportunities for all our young people.

As an Academy, we are ambitious and forward facing, and I look forward to our continued success in the years to come.

*Dave Terry, Principal*



*Fantastic opportunities: Principal Dave Terry.*

## Onwards and upwards

### Year 9 Graduation

IN July, Year 9 students attended their Key Stage 3 Graduation Ball at the Park Inn, St Helens. The evening was a great success with students receiving awards for various achievements throughout the term. Both students and staff all made a huge effort and dressed to impress on the night.



### Year 11 Prom

MORE than 140 students danced the night away at the Year 11 Prom at Holland Hall in June. Dressed in their posh frocks and smart suits, the students were greeted by staff and a glass of orange punch. The room itself was adorned with wedding decorations, including candles, feathers and 'favours', which had been lovingly prepared by Miss Dykes.



*Belles of the ball: Our students celebrate.*

### Year 13 Leavers' Night

THIS year's Sixth Form Leavers' Night was held at the Liverpool Marina, in celebration of the hard work and dedication shown by students during their time at The Sutton Academy. The evening was enjoyed by staff and students alike, and we would like to extend our sincere best wishes for the future.

*Angela Topping*

## Outstanding results

**CONGRATULATIONS to the Class of 2011 on their recent examination results. Both Year 11 and Year 13 have been outstanding groups of students and have enriched the life of the academy in many ways over the last year.**

Notable individual success included Madeline Phillips (A\*AA), who secured her place at York University to read English, Ashleigh Waine (AAB) and Anthony Campbell (BBC). Meanwhile, in BTEC Performing Arts, 75 per cent of the group secured double Distinction.

I am extremely proud of all the students and staff who have worked tirelessly to achieve so much. We look forward to a very bright future for Year 13 and to seeing so many Year 11 students in our thriving Sixth Form. Well done to you all.

*Dave Terry*

## Charity champions

MR Terry recently presented a cheque for £1,038 to Beverley Burnham-Jones from the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

The money was raised during Cystic Fibrosis Week, during which students and staff took part in an own-clothes day, a Sixth Form charity football match, a teachers versus Sixth Form netball match and a Merseyside versus Manchester staff football match.

The week, which also helped to raise students' awareness, included an inspirational talk by international athlete Aaron Aby, who has cystic fibrosis, to students in Year 8.



**Cheque mates! Mr Terry with Beverley Burnham-Jones from the Cystic Fibrosis Fund.**

## Students show initiative

**STUDENTS** have the opportunity to turn themselves into the next Richard Branson or Alan Sugar by taking part in the wide range of Enterprise projects, clubs and competitions that take place regularly at The Sutton Academy. These help to build on skills and personal qualities such as determination, creativity, problem-solving, risk-taking, teamwork and passion.

Activities have included working with the St Helens Chamber on a number

of successful projects including a morning refreshment stall and film nights, running a stationery shop within the school, designing the Academy's first yearbook for Year 11 leavers, and selling jewellery, cakes and keyrings for Valentine's Day.

Students also took part in Global Enterprise Week and My Money Week, where they learned the basics of financial planning for their future. In future, we hope to design our own mugs and T-shirts.



*Award winners: Year 13 dancers.*

## Year 13 step up to dance

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the Year 13 dancers who have completed their Dance Leaders Award. This involves teaching dance for 30 hours in a local primary school, and is a reflection of their dedication and hard work.

*Lianne Seddon*





# In concert

THE Academy Choir recently gave a rousing performance at Adamston House Nursing Home in Sutton. Many of the elderly residents know The Sutton Academy well, and had some great stories to tell.

*Andrew Walker*

## Student support

Edge Hill  
University



St Helens College

OUR sponsors, St Helen's College and Edge Hill University, provide a rich support network that enhances the opportunities of our students, and of the Academy itself.

In addition, we would like to thank the members of our Governing Body for their unwavering and invaluable contribution to the life of the school.

They are:

Ms P Bacon  
Mr R Smedley  
Mr D Wheatley  
Mr P Townley  
Dr L May  
Mr D Grant  
Cllr E Smith  
Mr W Turner  
Mr D Terry  
Mr N Burnham  
Mr C Whittaker  
Mr G Pennington  
Mr A Sykes

Chairperson  
Vice Chair  
Governor  
Governor  
Governor  
Governor  
Governor  
Governor  
Governor  
Governor  
Parent Governor  
Community Governor  
Staff Governor



# Pride in com

Our links with parents, carers, sponsors, key partners, governors and partner primaries enable us to provide a happy, caring and stimulating environment where students thrive

## Friends of the Academy

**FRIENDS of the Academy is the voice of parents, carers and community members at The Sutton Academy. The group will meet at least once each half-term, and is open to anyone who would like to be involved.**

**Please contact us if you require any further information, or if you are interested in becoming a Friend. Log on to our website for further details, at [www.thesuttonacademy.org.uk/pages/view/community/parents-area](http://www.thesuttonacademy.org.uk/pages/view/community/parents-area)**

**Robbie Owens**

## Sporting glory

IN May, 14 Year 9 students from The Sutton Academy ran a special needs, multi-skills festival for primary students aged five and six from across St Helens. More than 50 young athletes took part in a variety of games at Lansbury Bridge School & Sports College.

The Sports Leaders, who were praised for their professionalism and caring attitude, thoroughly enjoyed the experience. "It was really rewarding, and we all had a good laugh," said Michael Hallman. "I would love to do something like this again," commented Kiera Turner.

**Paul Lane**



## Advice for all the family

SINCE June, the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) has held a community outreach session at the Academy for families in the Sutton community.

If you would like any financial or general advice, please visit the Community Base between 10am and 12.30pm every Wednesday.

**Robbie Owens**

our  
community



## Achieve your goals

SIXTY students in Year 10 took part in an Aimhigher event in May entitled 'Mindset for Exams', led by Live 'n' Learn. The aim of the event was to teach students valuable study skills and to help them set, and achieve, their goals. They also learned how to stay motivated and how to manage their time effectively.

Sixty students in Year 8 were also involved in a fun and creative workshop entitled 'Direction'. The day, which was led by former Brookside actress Anne Marie Davies, focused on helping students to make the right choices in life and at school.

*Rachel Lythgow*



## International links widen our horizons

IN May, we were pleased to welcome visitors from our partner schools in Thailand and Korea, as part of the Connecting Classrooms programme.

They arrived to a chorus of primary school students from Eaves and Robins Lane singing I can see clearly now the rain has gone, led by Jack Bennett in Year 10. Afterwards, students from Year 10 introduced our visitors to The

Sutton Academy and demonstrated some of the great things we have been doing this year.

Over the next two days, we visited Robins Lane, Thatto Heath and Eaves, and spent time thinking of exciting ways to link our classrooms across the globe. These include plans to use Skype and video-conferencing.

*Sharon Hughes*

## Beyond the classroom

**SUPER Learning Day 3, undoubtedly, was the best we have had at the Academy. Following feedback requesting more sports' and practical activities, both students and staff tried their hand at a variety of circus skills, including juggling, plate-spinning and using a Diablo. Sports activities included Body Zorb, Zumba, free-running and orienteering.**

**A trip to Liverpool enabled students to explore the city's history as a bustling port, while an interactive learning session at Manchester Science Museum helped to inform students about the Academy's main specialism of Science. Check out the video on The Academy website.**

*Juggling act: Students learned a variety of circus skills.*

# Thrills and spills

ALTON Towers was the venue for a thrilling day in May, during which 150 students from Year 9 queued patiently for the chance to try out some of the park's dramatically named rides, including 'Oblivion', which some students decided to brave no less than eight times!

Although the weather stayed dry, the students still managed to get wet when they decided to take the plunge on 'Ripsaw'.

Check out the website gallery for more photos from the trip at [www.thesuttonacademy.org.uk/galleries/view/alton-towers](http://www.thesuttonacademy.org.uk/galleries/view/alton-towers)



*Riding high: Our students at Alton Towers.*



## Passport to Paris

IN June, 33 students from Years 7 and 8 spent a fun-filled weekend in Paris.

After a long journey, we arrived at our hotel, the Chateau La Grande Romaine, where the students took part in a wide range of activities, including swimming in the heated pool, team-building, making pancakes, football and a disco.

As well as a fabulous day in Euro

Disney and a trip to a nearby waterpark, we also managed to do some sightseeing and a spot of shopping.

The students were a credit to the Academy, and Mr Metcalfe, Miss O'Hare, Mr Bibby and I would like to thank everyone who made this visit such a success.

**Nora Robinson**



*Fitting tribute: Academy students in Belgium.*

## In Flanders fields...

AROUND 30 students from Years 8 and 9 set off for Belgium early one morning in May. The trip to the hotel in Ypres took nearly seven hours, including the ferry journey from Dover to Calais. After unpacking, we visited the Menin Gate for the Last Post ceremony.

The next day we visited Hooze Crater Cemetery and Essex Farm Military Cemetery, where John McCrae was inspired to write the poem *In Flanders Fields*, in tribute to his childhood friend, Alexis Helmer, who was killed in action.

On the second day of our visit, we toured the French battlefields, including Lochnagar Crater and the Somme, before visiting the Thiepval Memorial, which names more than 72,000 British and French soldiers who are still missing in the Somme area.

On the final day, we toured the Tyne Cot Cemetery and Memorial to the missing, which is the largest Commonwealth war graves cemetery in the world.

**Tom Kelsall, Year 9**

*All abroad: Students take a well-earned break.*



## Happy holidays

THIRTY-FIVE students from Years 7 and 8 enjoyed a four-day visit to Oberursel, Germany, in June.

Staying at Haus Heliand, the students set off for the Holiday Park the next morning, where they rode the hair-raising GeForce, the loop-the-loop rollercoaster and the free-fall tower. Afterwards, they cooled down on the water rides and spent the afternoon in the adventure pool.

On the final evening, we enjoyed a delicious barbecue and a hilarious quiz, during which everyone ran around the hostel searching for answers.

Hopefully, we will have the opportunity to visit again next year.

**Katherine Blum**

## Karate kid

YEAR 10 student Nicole Donoghue successfully defended her title as reigning national champion at the Karate Union of Great Britain 45th National Karate Championships at the Birmingham NIA in May. The St Helens Karate student and England squad member won three fights to bring home a gold medal and trophy for the second consecutive year.

St Helens Karate would like to encourage both students and adults to have a go. Training takes place at Sutton Leisure Centre, Elton Head Road, Tuesdays and Thursday, from 6.30-8pm. There is no joining fee and the first lesson is free.

For further details, email [sthelenskarate01@gmail.com](mailto:sthelenskarate01@gmail.com)



**National champion:  
Nicole Donoghue, Year 10.**

**Rachel Lythgow**

## Sport aids learning

ONCE again, National Sports Week took place towards the end of June.

This included the Academy's first triathlon, overseen by volunteers from the Sixth Form, during which students from Years 7, 8 and 9 competed against each other in swimming, cycling and running.

The week also included Super Learning Day 3 and Sports Day, which helped to stimulate learning in subjects across the school.

**Mark Siddle**

## Referees rule

YEAR 9 Sports Leaders Martin Derrick, Bradley Grime, Declan Williams and CJ Allen all volunteered their time to referee a primary football competition at Fives.

The boys were praised by the organisers for having the courage to take on such a high-profile role. They were also congratulated on their professionalism and for demonstrating superb organisational and communication skills.

**Paul Lane**



## In brief

- CONGRATULATIONS to Year 9 students Meg Lee and Shannon Smith who were selected to play in the North West of England rugby league squad, only just losing out to an experienced Yorkshire team. Both girls play for the Academy team and also represent St Helens.

- CHLOE Rigby also represented The Sutton Academy and St Helens at the Merseyside Schools Athletics finals, where she finished second after clearing 1.52m (just under 5ft) in the high jump.

**Paul Lane**

- IN May, The Sutton Academy hosted the Year 5 and 6 'Athletics Quadkids' event. Organised and led by our Year 9 Sports Leaders, it attracted more than 100 primary school students.



**High-profile role: Year 9 Sports Leaders.**