

OASIS ACADEMY ISLE OF SHEPPEY

EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

REFLECTION – SUMMER TERM 1:

This term has seen us celebrate King Charles III Coronation, and that is where we start - **celebration**.

Celebrations begin with the Academy winning a Dementia award for Kent. Thanks to all the commitment of Paul Murray and his wife and Academy students who made this a reality. They demonstrate their commitment to our community values with our elderly residents from the island, giving them an opportunity to mix, socialise and enjoy company together. I am truly grateful.

More recently we have had Criterion, a local history group from Blue Town visit the Academy and were over whelmed by the warmth of our students as they welcomed them into the Academy, enjoying the historical lessons about the rich history of the island. During the same week, we also had a visit from Boxclever, a travelling Shakespeare theatre company who delivered Macbeth (a GCSE text) to Year 10 and once again our students were amazing, recorded in a recent TikTok by the travelling theatre company.

The wellbeing of students has always been important , this seems to have been highlighted more recently as we have emerged out of the Covid pandemic. With this in mind, Mrs Oosthuizen, Head of Personal Development in the Academy, organised a visit from Ellie's Angels. They presented a powerful story to students on the Sheerness campus . Students left having heard a powerful message of the importance of looking after your wellbeing, and how to improve self-esteem, once again, our students being praised for their fantastic behaviour, quality of questions and listening ability during the presentation. Kenward Trust delivered to Year 10, a drugs awareness presentation again with a hard hitting message as to the dangers and impact of choices being made.

We are well and truly into the summer examination period of which our students have been well prepared by both Academy, parents and carers. Students in the Academy seem to be applying themselves well to revision, wanting to make themselves as well as their families proud. The hard work continues with many opportunities of intervention during the half term break where our students will be taught techniques and principles needed in readiness for further examinations in both GCSEs and A-levels when we return. We look forward to celebrating their success in August on results days.

The next term is no less busy as we look to welcome our new year 7 cohort in early July, as well as preparing year 8 for their transition to the Minster campus into year 9, in readiness to begin their GCSEs in year 10. Preparation for these transitions are very much underway.

All students of the Academy from years 7 to 10 will have end of term summer examinations – with revision beginning in the first week back. Years 7, 8 and 9 will have their end of year examination timetables shared with them shortly, this will be important in terms of informing and planning of the teaching and learning needed for the next academic year. Whilst the future of the Academy is not yet fully known, the staffing teams and myself are committed to pursuing the highest level of education and driving up standards so students can be the best versions of themselves.

This half term is a welcome break for all and I wish you all a fantastic time of relaxation, one which I am hoping we can all enjoy with some sunshine.

Mr Booth

Executive Principal

MOST DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY AWARD

The Dementia Friendly Awards took place on Friday 19th May at the County Showground in Detling, with Minister for Care, Helen Whately and Kent County Council Leader, Roger Gough present, to celebrate individuals, organisations and communities leading and inspiring a change that transform the lives of people with dementia forever, challenging misunderstandings, changing attitudes and taking action.



We as a school have been undertaking dementia work for 10 years; running Dementia/Community Cafes all over Swale and beyond, delivering Christmas presents, Easter eggs, cakes and activity kits to care homes. We visit a number of care homes on a regular basis and work with the residents on various activities.

Back to the events of last Friday. Students from our Community Hub were nominated for an award in the Most Dementia Friendly Community section and we were in the final three, with the other two groups being adults. We were asked to host a café on the day for people living with dementia and we agreed to do this. Guests were served with tea and coffee and an array of freshly made cakes made by Mrs Murray. We think we made 350 cups of tea, lots of coffee and jugs of squash. The students worked so hard and many compliments were paid to them. Our students are so caring and people were clearly touched by how they support and help their guests.

Oasis Academy Isle of Sheppey were voted **The Most Dementia Friendly Community in Kent**. An **outstanding** achievement. Our students supported people living with dementia throughout Covid and this went a long way to help them win; following NHS guidelines to the letter during Covid.

Elaine Murray, Area Manager For Kent and Sussex said, 'The students are absolutely phenomenal. They deserve a lot more recognition for all the visits they conduct in and around Kent at care homes, hosting afternoon teas and their dementia cafes which always have such a brilliant turnout. Well done to them all.' - a lovely summing up of the work our students do and quite rightly we are very proud of what they have achieved and continue to commit to.

The next event is on Saturday June 24th at 1:30 pm on our Minster campus. If you wish to attend please email Paul.murray@oasisisleofsheppey.org

WORKSHOPS AT THE ACADEMY THIS TERM

CRITERION BLUETOWN HERITAGE CENTRE



On Wednesday 17 May, the Sheerness campus welcomed the Criterion Bluetown Heritage Centre to discuss the importance of local History to our Year 7 and Year 8 students. Our visitors informed students about the long history of the Isle of Sheppey, back from the its time under the Anglo-Saxon when it acquired the name Scepige or 'Sheep Island', the importance of the island's monarchs including Henry VIII, the development of the Royal Dockyard on the island, and the island's importance to the defence of Britain in the 20th Century.

Throughout the assemblies students were highly engaged learning about their local history and how the island they live on has played such an important role in Britain's history. Many students asked great questions of our visitors and wanted to know more about the island's history. The students involved were a credit to the academy and our visitors left providing us with much praise about the academy and our students.

MAY 2023

ELLIE'S ANGELS CHARITY



In our schools commitment to promote positive mental health in our students, local charity 'Ellie's Angels' facilitated a workshop on managing mental health. Ellie's Angels is a local charity organisation set up in the name of 16 year old Ellie Payne, a local girl, who sadly lost her life in a road collision. Ellie's parents have used Ellie's diaries and methods of managing her own mental health and have transformed them into an app called 'better u' which empowers our young people to manage their own mental health in the same way Ellie did.

The app is supported by the NHS and local mental health services and Oasis Isle of Sheppey were lucky enough to get the first 'in school' presentation by Ellie's parents and a mental health nurse representative from Swale. Year 7 and 8 students listened to Ellie's mental health journey and to the advice given by the MH nurse on the importance of positive mental health.

Time was given for students to ask any questions allowing further advice and any misconceptions to be cleared up. In addition, Ellie's Angels brought a film crew with them and a recording was undertaken in our auditorium ready to go out to other schools. Our students have started using the app on their phones and iPads and many have reported how useful it has been to them. Year 7 and 8 were a credit to the academy in their focus, empathy and mature level of questioning. Next year we hope to work with Ellie's Angels again, with involving our students in fundraising activities so we can secure and support links with such an important cause.

KENWARD TRUST



After featuring on BBC News, the Kenward Trust were invited in to meet our Year 9, 10 and Sixth Form students to talk to them about making positive life choices. This hard hitting and gripping workshop was presented by representatives of the Trust, who spoke to our students about making the right choices when exposed to drugs, substance abuse, crime and antisocial behaviour.

Team member Andy spoke about his experiences of being involved in crime which led him to jail sentences and homelessness. He gave our students the realities of this life choice and the effects. His story was compelling, honest and gave our students an insight of what negative life choices can lead to. Following on from this, students listened to Team member Amy who spoke of her son who sadly lost his life after taking drugs. He only did this once and had his future taken from him leaving devastation to his family. Amy's emotional and heartfelt presentation left the students reflecting on how negative choices can affect not only their own futures, but of the hurt and pain it leaves behind for those who love them.

The impact on the students and staff who saw this workshop was notable and gave our students plenty to reflect on. The Kenward Trust commented us on how well behaved and respectful our students were, and what a credit to school they are.

PARENTS FORUM - FEEDBACK - COMMUNICATION

During our **March** Parent Forum, we discussed the topic of **Communication**, how this can be improved and consistent. The main take away points from the discussions are listed below, together with the actions we have taken:

Communications Feedback
You said :

A : Please could you rank these: email , MCAS , Phone , Letter , text , in order of your preference e.g.

- 1 Email was the preferred option
- 2 MCAS – like the interactivity but not always accurate
- 3 Phone etc - least preferred

B: Could you now say what information you would prefer to be shared alongside your preference :

- 1 Email - teachers concerns or praise
- 2 MCAS - daily academy life: attendance, behaviour/rewards/points, detentions etc
- 3 Phone – from academy son/daughter immediate concerns/progress
- 4 Letter - calendar updates of academy life/events
- 5 Text - attendance and reminders

Communication
YOU SAID :

We try to contact but cannot get through

- Telephone monitoring of calls answered

We don't know what is going on


- Principal's updates at least termly

We are told too late and not aware of things arranged

- Calendar updates e.g. parent evening etc
- Academic Calendar plan on website
- Letters around events and other items communicated

Who do we contact when ?


- A designated year team email for each year group



Communication

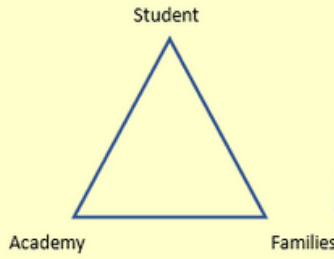
YOU SAID :

- Parents need to know when a child is placed on report – this is not happening.
Head of Years to advise
- Is there a way of speaking to Sheerness site specifically rather than being put through to the switchboard on Minster.
No – historically 25% of calls answered; by allowing all administration staff to answer calls across the two campuses, more calls are answered; now consistently over 90%
- Student postcards are great.
These are continuing to be sent – rewards really important; we gave out more than 10,00 rewards points last week
- Can we activate the student portal to inform parents of reasons there are positives and negatives?
Yes – however want to get the messaging correct



Communication

We are committed to improve communication because without it we cannot move forward :



The next **Parents’ Forum** will take place on **Tuesday, 11th July 2023 - 6.00-7.00 pm** – Minster campus. The topic of discussion will be advised closer to the date.

We would like to continue this growth and encourage as many parents and carers to join us and participate in the discussion. If you have attended previously, please share with other parents and carers of the benefits in attending and contributing. Please email Jo.gass@oasisileofsheppey.org if you are able to attend on 11th July.

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Please find detailed below useful dates including the remaining year groups' Parents' evenings; good to have back as face to face meetings, appointments are made in the lead up to each via SchoolCloud - details have been sent home to provide access to the booking portal.

Tuesday, 6th June 2023	Year 8 Information evening and tour 8ab/Tu1, 8ab/Tu2, 8ab/Tu3, 8ab/Tu4, 8ab/Tu5, 8x/Tu1	Minster campus
Wednesday, 7th June 2023	Year 10 Parents' evening - appointments via SchoolCloud	Minster campus
Thursday, 8th June 2023	Year 8 Information evening and tour 8de/Tu1, 8de/Tu2, 8de/Tu3, 8de/Tu4, 8de/Tu5, 8Ap/Tu1	Minster campus
Wednesday, 14th June 2023	Year 8 Parents' evening - appointments via SchoolCloud	Sheerness campus
Friday, 14th July 2023	Academy Sports Day	Minster campus
Friday, 21st July 2023	Final day Summer term 2	Both campuses

Years 9, 10 and 11 - Immunisations - 8th and 9th June 2023

A reminder of the letters sent to Years 9, 10 and 11 parents and carers providing detail for the upcoming immunisation clinics taking place on the Minster campus on 8th and 9th June 2023.

If you have any questions regarding the immunisations, please use the contact details detailed on the letter which include a **direct telephone** line to the **Immunisation team - 0300 123 5205**; **text** the service on **07401 320923** or **email kchft.cyp-immunisationteam@nhs.net** .