

Year 11: Not Done 'Til 51!

Over recent weeks, Year 11 students have been reviewing their formal exam results and identifying strengths and specific areas to focus on in the crucial final months leading up to their GCSE exams. The formal exams produced some very pleasing outcomes, with **47% of students achieving 5 or more A*-C grades including English and maths**. This is 9% higher than our actual 2014 results and Year 11 should take great pride in their achievements. With several weeks still to go before the real exams start, there is every chance that they can repeat their success, or even better it, in the summer but they should also be under no illusions that the hard work has only just begun if they are to do so.

The results have also given us genuine confidence that **this cohort is capable of breaking the school's all-time record of 51%**, set in 2010. This has in turn given rise to our slogan "**Not done 'til 51!**" which will hopefully instil some self-belief in the students and motivate them to go on and prove that they are the best Alec Hunter has ever seen.

As part of the formal exam process, students have been going through their exam papers with subject teachers and using the mark schemes from the exam boards to familiarise themselves with assessment criteria and identify the all-important key ingredients each student needs in order to reach their exam target grade.



In tutor time, students have reflected on their revision and preparation for the exams, as well as their actual exam performances. It has been clear

School Opening Times

Visitors' Reception

Monday-Thursday: 8:15am-4:15pm
Friday: 8:15am-3:45pm

Student Reception

8:15am—3:25pm

Student Absence

We would be grateful if parents reporting absence would use this service:

Tel: 01376 559356

Text: 07598 393348

jackie.jackson@alechunter.com

Please be aware that the text number is only for texts and there is no voicemail service.

Diary Dates

March Diary Dates

5th - Y9 Options Evening

9th - Y8-10 Photos

12th - GCSE Music Performance

17th - Spring Concert

19th – BBC School Report Day

23rd – School Council Meeting

26th – Y9 Option Forms due

27th – Last day of term - **1:10pm**

finish for students

(Ski Trip and Normandy Trip depart)

Reflections Themes

w/c 02/03/15:

Personal Safety & CEOP

w/c 09/03/15:

Friends & Family Matter

Week Commencing

09/03/15 is Week B

from this reflection that students who prepared appropriately for their exams by following teachers' guidance and revising at home regularly, adhering to a clear revision timetable, performed better than students that did not plan or revise appropriately. It has been proven year after year that effort and attitude to learning are by far the most telling factors in determining exam outcomes and, **once again, the importance of parental support in ensuring pupils are revising at home cannot be underestimated.**

Many thanks for continuing to work with us for the benefit of our most senior students and well done to them for all their hard work in showing that they are "Not Done 'Til 51!"

Year 9 Skills Day

Learning from the Holocaust

"All that is necessary in the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."
Edmund Burke

On 5th February, Year 9 had a Skills Day with the Humanities Department where students focused on the lessons that can be learnt from the Holocaust. 2015 is the 70th Anniversary of the end of World War II and the liberation of the concentration and death camps by the allied soldiers. Our students were privileged to hear the painful memories of a Holocaust survivor who lived through this landmark period of history.

Rudi, his brother Paul and his sister Eve spent a large part of their young lives in Nazi concentration camps for being Jews. Rudi's sister, Eve, had been born in England and that gave them special status. They were labelled 'Exchange Jews' and given better treatment than German Jews. This was because they might have been exchanged with the British for German prisoners. This never happened and Rudi and his family suffered horrendous conditions inside the camps where his parents died. Rudi and his brother and sister were fortunate to survive until the war ended and they were allowed to move to England to live with his Uncle and Aunt who already lived there.

As Melissa Gurteen and Matthew Hollingsworth of 9U report:

"We were honoured to have Rudi come in to talk to us about his experiences. He suffered a very traumatic life which he spoke to the year group about in detail. Rudi lived in many different places, including Germany, England and the Netherlands. His talk made a whole year group stay in silence for over an hour, and at the end we were allowed to ask questions. It was fascinating to hear his responses.

Rudi's presentation told of his movement throughout different countries in an attempt to escape Nazi rule. He also told us about his experience in two concentration camps - Westerbork in Holland and Bergen-Belsen in Germany. In the latter camp, Rudi lost his Mother and Father. His speech made us reflect on our actions, for example, not being a bystander but speaking out against things that are wrong. This was the main message that Rudi wanted us to take away from his talk.

Golden Ticket Winners

Joseph Turner 7R
Dominik Slomion 7N
Georgina Chandler 8H
Max Scott 8N
Ryan Garrod 8E
Olivia Harris 9T
Kyle Lowe 9C
Iain Rooke 10U
Skye Taylor 10N

Clean Responsibility Card Winners

Luanne Cridland 7U
James Francis 7N
Charlie Myers 8H
Callum Postill 8U
Samantha Horne 9N
Emily Ramsey 9A
Mia Stringer 10A
Rhys Spiller 10A

Bonus Vivo Winners

Ruby Hatwell 7E
Tayla Healy 7E
Daisy Hughes 7E
Anna Jenkins 8N
Kiera Hornsby 8R
Sinead O'Callaghan 8H

In the morning, we discussed stereotyping, identity and the dangers of being a bystander. This gave us another perspective on the Holocaust. Overall, we had a thoroughly informative day and would love to hear from Rudi again."



The letters written to Rudi by students will be sent to him by the Holocaust Educational Trust. They were a wonderful reflection of the impact Rudi had on the students. Some extracts are below:

"My most memorable part of your testimony was when you spoke about your parents passing away. I strongly thought about how hard it must have been for you and your brother at such a young age to lose them, and I respect massively what you went through. My favourite part of your testimony was the photos you shared with us, because I felt privileged to have seen your childhood in images. The photos are beautiful and put a smile on my face."

"From your testimony I have learnt about being a bystander or an upstander. You have taught me that being a bystander will only make things worse."

"Your testimony has made me think about the way I am and how I act towards people. Your presentation was so inspirational and you are such an amazing inspiration to us."

"You have inspired me to be brave in future events in my life because I know it will be nothing like your experiences. You faced horror at 11 and I am 14 and I have never had to face the horror of losing my Mum and Dad."

"To have lost so much, like your Mum and Dad, and to carry on is beyond a miracle. If I believed in God I would think he chose you because he knew you would move on to do such a heart-warming, generous thing for the younger generation. You deserved to survive that experience because you have impacted on society so much."

"The most memorable part of your testimony for me was the fact that Jews couldn't do anything. They couldn't go swimming, to restaurants, to cafés, and had to go to separate schools."

"I now know that I am a bystander until I actually try to make a difference. You have inspired me to become an upstander. You are now one of my heroes."

The students behaved impeccably and the respect and empathy they showed Rudi was a sign of their maturity. Many of the students were interested in getting a copy of Rudi's brother's book 'From Belsen to Buckingham Palace.' Extra copies of this can be obtained from The Holocaust Centre and Museum, Laxton, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG22 0PA or by emailing: office@holocaustcentre.net.

For any more information please contact Ms L Woolnough - Head of Humanities.

Year 8 Monitors

Well done to the following students for their monitoring duties between 9th – 27th February 2015

Braden Edwards

Alysha Jones

Zachary Keeley

Eden Lawrence

Jake Newton

Tayla Poulter

Luke Norton

Katie Scott

Jaden Orriss

Sarah Stevens

William Pennington

Katie Twin

Joshua Possee

Tom Saunders

Max Scott

Sara Whitman

Charlie Truscott

Ellie Yarham

Jack Amos

Chloe Bailey

Cameron Bailey

Kia Boyce-Ihekwoaba

Joe Borein

Georgina Chandler

Jake Cox

Alice Logan

George Frost

Yasmin Malek

Philip Manzano

Elri Nel

Sinead O'Callaghan

Keane Mills

Chloe Rodriguez-Morris

Abdul Mohaimin

Key Stage 4 Revision Evening

On Thursday 5th February, Year 10 and Year 11 parents were invited to a workshop from Bradley Busch of 'Inner Drive', a company that works with a range of professional sportsmen and women, businesses and educational establishments. The aim of the session was to help parents to support their children through the stress, strains, highs and lows of preparing for GCSE exams.

The informative session offered strategies and techniques to support parents in getting students to revise effectively and manage their emotions and brain activity in order to have the most successful outcome from their crucial GCSE exams in the summer.

Year 11 parents were also offered the opportunity to attend an English GCSE Workshop that aimed to assist them in encouraging students to revise for their English exam, as well as providing valuable tips and techniques on how best to complement English revision at home. This was achieved through an interactive session delivered by the English Department.

The Key Stage 4 Year Teams would wish to emphasise the vital role that parents can play in supporting students with their studies at home, and the importance of creating a positive and comfortable learning environment for completion of homework and revision, which are musts if students are to reach their target grades and achieve their full potential in the summer.

Key Stage 3 Revision Guides

The Science Department has Key Stage 3 revision guides for sale, which are an excellent resource to help with homework in Years 7, 8 and 9. They are priced at £3.00 and are available from the Science Technicians.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

On Tuesday 10th February and Wednesday 11th February 2015, the Performing Arts department proudly presented an abridged version of Shakespeare's classic *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The play was a great success and the pupils involved performed exceptionally well, developing both as performers and individuals as a result of being part of a fantastic production.

It is always pleasing to see new performers on stage, and a special mention should go to Callum Denson, Thomas Riggs and Mia Devenish, who all made their debuts on stage, taking on their challenging roles with great enthusiasm and success. As well as newcomers, it is also delightful to see the many regular performers from school productions, plays and concerts on stage.

I would like to commend all of the performers for the way they embraced the production and their outstanding focus and attitude in rehearsals, particularly as the text they were performing was extremely demanding, offering the first exposure to Shakespeare for many of them. Adam Reid, as the comical Bottom, showed a great sense of comic timing and his hilarious duet with Matthew Austin was a real highlight of the performance.

Year 8 Monitors (continued)

Claudia Spurgeon
 Frederick Moss Prout
 Brim Thongkhong
 Adam Reid
 Rebecca Underwood
 Charlie Myers
 Kieran Wilson
 Charlie Amos
 Haydn Castell
 Holly George
 Ryan Garrod
 Ellie Jordan
 Louis Goodacre
 Ami May
 Jason Kirby
 Veronica Moraru
 Owen Morris
 Alexa-Jane Nelson
 Kyle Sorrell
 Holly Roberts
 Corey Norgate
 Tayla Sutherland
 Shania Williams

The commanding stage presence of William Atkinson, Sophie Rutland and George Malyan, and the confidence with which they delivered their lines, are also worth a mention.

We look forward to rehearsing our summer musical production of Hairspray and hope you will be supporting this production on 7th, 8th and 9th July.

Mr Holland

U13 Boys National Schools County Tournament

On Tuesday 24th February, our U13 Boys Hockey Team went to Redbridge Sports Centre to face some tough opposition. The tournament was organised in 2 pools and Alec had Chigwell A, Felsted and Holmwood House in their section.

Their first game was against Holmwood House and it took a while for the boys to get used to the bigger pitch and playing together as a team once more; they eventually lost 2-0. The next game was against Felsted and everyone thought this might be a high scoring game - for Felsted! Alec had started to acclimatise a little more and played exceptionally well, especially in defence. They managed to hold Felsted to 0-0 right up until the last 30 seconds of the game when they eventually scored, making it 1-0 to Felsted, the eventual tournament winners. The last pool game was against Chigwell A, another strong team. Having done so well against Felsted, the boys appeared a little shocked when Chigwell scored, and they promptly let in 3 goals in quick succession, a deficit from which they were unable to recover.

Although coming last in their section, they then went through to the 'losers' pool to play another 3 matches. Here, they again met Holmwood House and although Alec had many more chances to score this time, they still couldn't find the back of the net and the result was 2-0 again to Holmwood House. Their next game was against Chigwell B. Determined to score in this game, having had chances in the last game, they went about attacking with more commitment and this resulted in a 1-0 win. Their last game was against Coopers Coburn and after their recent success they went in to this game with a more positive attitude. They scored first, but let Coopers draw level, however, all credit goes to the boys who fought back and scored another goal to make the result another win for Alec, this time 2-1. These 2 wins were enough for Alec to win the 'losers' competition and come away from the tournament a very impressive 5th place in Essex. Well done to the boys!



Back row: Matthew Challis, Joe Borein (Captain), Callum Denson, Philip Manzano.
Front row: Joshua Harris, Jamahl Godward, Harvey Ellis.

Future Fundraising Events

Please make a note of these dates in your diaries:

- Year 7 & 8 Disco – 16th May 7:30-9:30pm
- Ladies’ Pampering Evening – 5th June 7:00-10:00pm
- Indoor Boot Sale – 17th October 11:00am-1:00pm
- Indoor Boot Sale – 21st November 11:00am-1:00pm

If you are interested in attending an event, would like to be alerted when the Pampering Evening tickets go on sale, are a therapist that would like to take part in the Pampering Evening, or would like to book a stall at one of our indoor boot sales, then please contact Denise Stevens on 01376 328059 or alechunterfrogs@outlook.com.

StreetGames CLUB 1

SEE IT TRY IT LIVE IT
WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Jog? Gym? Swim? Dance? Boxing? Bootcamp?

ACTIVE BRAINTREE CLUB 1 PROJECT

The new StreetGames 'CLUB 1' programme aims to get more young people aged 14-25 to take part in solo activities, as part of a group and of their own accord. The aim is to enhance and connect young people to activity opportunities in their local area, help them make use of local facilities and prepare them to be active independently - contributing to creating a sporting habit for life.

Golf 14-25 Years Old

- Saturday 29th April 10.00-11.00
Free Coaching Taster Session
Braintree Golf Club, King's Lane, Stisted, Braintree, Essex, CM77 8DD
- Saturday 2nd May 13.00-14.00
Free Coaching Taster Session
Colne Valley Golf Club, Station Road, Earls Colne, Colchester, Essex, CO6 2LT

Book your place at Braintree Sport and Fitness for Braintree Golf Club and Halstead LC for Colne Valley Golf Club

Free Gym Inductions for 14-25 year olds on completion each person will be assigned 5 free passes to the gym.

- Halstead Leisure Centre, Colne Road, Halstead, Essex, CO9 2HR
Tuesday 17th March 17.30-18.30 and Wednesday 25th March 12.00-13.00
- Witham Leisure Centre, Spinks Lane, Witham, CM8 1EP
Wednesday 18th March 17.00-18.00 and Tuesday 24th March 12.00-13.00
- Braintree Sport and Health Club, Panfield Lane, Braintree, Essex, CM7 1FF
Thursday 19th March 17.30-18.30 and Thursday 26th March 12.00-13.00

If participant is under 16 they would require signed permission from a parent or guardian over the age of 18.

Badminton 13-18 Years Old

- Halstead Leisure Centre, Colne Road, Halstead, Essex, CO9 2HR
Tuesday 14th April 17.00-18.00 for 4 weeks
- Braintree Sport and Health Club, Panfield Lane, Braintree, Essex, CM7 1FF
Wednesday 12th May 17.00-18.00 for 4 weeks

Beginners Boxing 13-18 Years Old

- Wednesday 4th February 18.30-19.30 for 8 weeks
Braintree Swimming and Fitness, Charter Way, Braintree, Essex, CM77 6YJ
Contact James Martin (Greenfields) 01376 535400 ext 4140

#myCLUB1

Limited Spaces Available to register for any of the activities above, please contact braintree-fitness@fusion-lifestyle.com 0845 260 1535 and book in at the relevant centre.

CLUB1 Promoters will be on hand to offer guidance, support, enthusiasm and tons of motivation!

To all parents and carers...

Worried about your child?

Running out of ideas about how best to help them?

Would you like to talk through the problem and look for some possible solutions?

Why not book an informal Consultation Meeting with an Educational Psychologist?



Venue: Lyons Hall Primary School, Braintree, CM7 9FH

Wednesday 4th March 2015

9:30am-12:30pm

Venue: Alec Hunter Academy, Braintree, CM7 3NR

Tuesday 24th March 2015

9:30am – 12:30pm

For further information and to book a timeslot, please contact:

Amanda Furness (Educational Psychologist)

Tel: 03330134261

Email: amanda.furness@essex.gov.uk

LINE MANAGEMENT

Please find below our line management arrangements for students. The first point of contact for enquiries should be your child's tutor and then their Pastoral Leader. Our Achievement Coordinators focus on your child's overall achievement and progress in lessons.

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Form Tutors				
Mrs Porter Pastoral Leader	Miss McInerney Pastoral Leader	Mrs Johnson Pastoral Leader	Mr Mullender Pastoral Leader	Mrs Truscott Pastoral Leader
Mr Moreno Achievement Coordinator	Miss McEvoy Achievement Coordinator	Mr Booth Achievement Coordinator	Miss Jones Mr Lee Achievement Coordinator	Mr Holland Achievement Coordinator
Mrs Richards Assistant Headteacher			Miss Chamberlain Assistant Headteacher	
Mrs Richards / Miss Chamberlain			Child Protection	
Mrs J Jackson / Miss L Morgan			Attendance Officers	

Should you have a subject-related query, for example, regarding homework, firefly, etc., the first point of contact should be the class teacher. Listed below are the Heads of each Curriculum Area, along with the member of the Leadership Group responsible for each Curriculum Area, to help parents in knowing who to approach for assistance.

Subject	Head of Curriculum Area	Senior Leader
English/Media Studies	Mr McKenna	Mr Woods
Mathematics	Mr Govender	Mr Woods
Science	Miss Chamberlain	Mr Lawn
Geography/History/RPE/Citizenship	Ms Woolnough	Miss Leack
Technology/Art/Child Development	Mr Todd	Mr Fox
French/German/Spanish	Mrs Steward	Mr Fox
ICT/Computer Science/Business Studies	Ms Walker	Miss Leack
PE/Drama/Music	Mr Edwards	Miss Leack
Personal Development	Mrs Powell	Mr Birley
Special Educational Needs	Mr Gilbert	Mr Birley
Learning for Life	Miss Marriott	Miss Leack
Leisure & Tourism/Retail Services/Workskills	Mr Sykes-Wood	Mr Fox