



## Academy Conversion

Following a meeting of Governors on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January, a resolution was taken to apply for an Academy Order and to proceed with academy conversion from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011, subject to consultation and a satisfactory funding arrangement. The college is applying for an academy conversion as part of a chain with our specialist college partner, Humberston Maths and Computing College, Grimsby.

### An Academy – Key Features

- Freedom from Local Authority control
  - The ability to set own pay and conditions for staff
  - Freedom in delivering the Curriculum
  - Freedom to spend the money the LA currently spends on our behalf
  - Academies receive the same funding for services that their local authority would have provided
  - Academies have to comply with the Admissions, exclusions and SEN laws and relevant codes, like all maintained schools.
- Ofsted inspections are carried out on the same basis as all other state funded schools.

### Why have governors' considered this proposal?

Essentially, the move to create a new academy structure had been well broadcast, even before the new government took power, as had the need for massive cuts in public expenditure. Our Local Authority(LA) has already embarked on a huge reduction in staffing and services, as has been seen in the media; the education sector seems unlikely to be protected and there is likely to be an increase in costs for LA services.

As a Foundation college, governors' knew that our budget was going to come under severe pressure, and this would have an impact on our service to the community. We want to be in control of our own destiny and taking the academy route will protect some elements of our budget. It offers an opportunity to work collectively with another school and to support further improvements through active collaboration. Most importantly, the decision puts King Edwards in the driving seat, controlling the pace of change, rather than being controlled by it.

Governors feel that our partner, Humberston Maths and Computing College has principles which match our own:

- One who believes that the students are paramount
- One who values collaboration
- One who recognises the service that the academy offers to the local community

This partnership is more one of equals where are context and individuality are not subsumed into one model and one in which both schools have something to offer the other.

### What does this mean for students?

The freedoms offered through becoming an Academy will enable us to provide a curriculum which suits the needs of our students and additional funding will allow us to improve facilities and environments for learning. Joint training events, revision groups and educational visits will be more accessible to students at King Edwards, given the economy of scale and the increased purchasing power of a larger student body.

### What does this mean for parents?

The Academy will set its own admissions arrangement. We will continue to be bound by the School Admissions Code (like all other schools/colleges). This means that we will continue to have fair admissions. Parents will still have a local college, not a business controlled model, and will still have direct contact to staff at need. The name and uniform of the college do not have to change, unless governors, staff and students feel that they wish to make changes; the decisions on daily practicalities remain with the same decision making groups.

A public consultation meeting was held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March in the college hall for parents and people associated with education, or just those with an interest in secondary education in Spilsby to air their views.

If you were unable to attend the meeting, please send your written comments to the college for governors to consider at their next meeting. A final decision on a move to academy status will not be taken until Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June and you will be informed accordingly as to the results of that decision.

### Y10

**Work Experience**  
7th to 11th March

**Friday 8th April**  
College Closed for  
Easter Holidays

**Tuesday 26th**  
**April**  
College Opens for  
Students

**Friday 29th April**  
College Closed for  
the Royal Wedding

**Monday 2nd May**  
College Closed for  
Bank Holiday

**Tuesday 3rd May**  
College Opens for  
Students

# Fashion Show

On Thursday 17th March The Fashion Show & Sale Company will be at King Edward VI Humanities College holding a fashion show featuring designer high street store and top range catalogue ladies garments. The event will start at 7.00pm and tickets are available from the college reception and are £3.00 a ticket. All proceeds will go to Skegness Alzheimers Society.



RIVER ISLAND

Freemans

## Holidays During Term Time - Mrs M Reeve

Parents are aware that all holidays should be taken during the thirteen week holiday period enjoyed by students. Holidays at this time do not have an impact on curriculum studies and progress. However, we are realistic and know that the expense of holidays taken during school holiday dates are more expensive and that many parents are employed in seasonal employment on the coast or the land which have an impact on availability dates.

**However**, from September 2011, periods of holiday absence which are longer than **five days** will not be authorised by the college. This change has is necessary due to the high number of two week holiday breaks which are having an impact on authorised absence figures which have doubled during the last academic year from 4.4% to 8.8% and the continuity of student learning.

Please take this information into account when booking holiday breaks from September 2011.

# Gardening Club

 - Science Department

We are actively working on our garden areas in college and would appreciate any help, support and advice from parents and members of the local community.



If you would like to be involved in this exciting development at our college please contact Maureen Jarvis or Caroline Robinson on 01790 753260.



Every Wednesday lunchtime between 1:30 - 2:00pm the gardening club will meet at Mrs Robinson's Science prep room. Attend 10 sessions and receive a FREE lunch at Gino's restaurant.

The Rye grass is starting to grow in one of the beds so during Spring it will be dug back into the soil, replenishing the nitrogen.

We are well on our way to raising the £2,500 needed for the new fencing which will mean we will have more growing space soon as well as more room to hold activities in the garden. We have acquired a new polytunnel, so we can grow more fresh produce to supply to Gino's restaurant.



The chickens are back on lay – hoorah!

New and exciting activities are being planned within Rural Science, Food For Life and Eco barn, so keep an eye out for further information!

## Seed Swap!

We are hosting a Seed Swap and workshop on Friday 13th May 1pm to 3pm

Liz Woodward from the Food for Life Partnership & Garden Organic will be on hand to give advice on anything you want to know about seeds. She will be giving guidance on seed saving, demonstrating seed saving techniques and planting. There will also be a small workshop where you will get to pot a seed and take it home with you. Resource packs available for schools and fact sheets for everyone else.



This is a FREE event and all we ask is that you bring along any spare seeds and/or vegetable plants that you would like to swap for something that you're not already growing. It is recommended that you wear appropriate clothing and footwear for working outside.

ALL AGES WELCOME! Refreshments will be provided.

If you are interested in attending, please call Caroline Robinson on (01790) 753260 ext 212, mon - fri (term time only) 9am to 3pm.

## Eco Barn Update - Mrs J Wilkinson



Following one of the worst winters in local memory and weeks of either severe frost, snow or rain the Eco Barn is back now on track and will be completed and ready to use by the end of March. The builders have done a remarkable job making up for lost time and enabling us to have the building ready for use by Easter.

Soon after the weather improved we saw the arrival of the moss for the living roof. This does need to be watered regularly during its first year but after that will be self maintaining. Thank goodness.



Work was then able to begin on the interior and the fixtures and fittings. There were some initial problems with the worktops (which were not quite what we expected). However after much negotiation, several worktops going back to the supplier and replacements arriving, we decided on worktops made from recycled wellingtons and yoghurt pots.

One of the main delays to the completion of the project has been the “drying out” of features such as the internal mud wall and the “Hempcrete” outer walls. Lincolnshire is not renowned for its dry and sunny climate and this has proved a major challenge to the builders who had to run heaters and dehumidifiers over a number of weeks to boost the drying process.



The final part of the project is the exterior and surrounding of the building where students will be able to design and grow a variety of plants and small gardens. Outside the barn there will be four small greenhouses which will contain examples of different eco systems for the students to maintain.



There will also be a number of oak planting boxes for students to plant and maintain. All this area is being set on recycled stone and the whole area will be under cover for students to be able to work outside in all weathers.



Small windows inside the building will enable students to see the materials used and the Barn will display full explanations of all the materials used and how and why they are environmentally friendly. These windows and display boards are all being created using local craftsmen.



Despite many challenges – accessing materials, using new and unusual products, the weather, we have been able to remain faithful to the original brief and are indebted to the contractors and builders for their persistence and patience in ensuring the vision we originally had for the Eco Barn becomes a reality.

## THE EUROPEANS ARE COMING!



You will have read in previous newsletters of the three exchange trips that students have made with the Comenius project to Finland, Holland and Germany. From May 23<sup>rd</sup> until May 27<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting a return visit from the students of these countries and will be looking for King Edward's students to host them.

We are expecting about 21 students in total. During the day they will be taking part in activities but will need a welcoming home for the evenings.

If you are interested in hosting our visitors, especially students from Y9, 10 and 11, please let Mrs Robson know and she will give you further details.

## Our Sponsored Children - Mrs J Robson

### Where does the money go?



Tented School, Haiti

Each year we raise money to sponsor two children in third world countries. Primarily the money goes to fund their education with the hope that they will not be caught in the poverty trap, by using their education to get jobs and therefore be economically independent in adulthood. However, the money is also used to fund projects for the child's community.

Our child from Togo has had improvements to the health care of his area, schools have been improved, equipped and teachers trained. Also, alternative education has been set up for those people unable to go to school. Plan works hard to encourage people to take control of their local government and services and also to offer opportunities to increase their financial security through agricultural loans. Other issues are child trafficking, child abuse, children orphaned by HIV and AIDS and connecting communities to clean water to stop child deaths.

Their major project this year has been the saving of lives and lifestyles in Haiti, devastated by the earthquake last year. 230,000 people were killed and vital buildings such as hospitals and schools destroyed. Classes started in the country last April, using tents and gravel floors. Toilets were built and medical aid given. Plan employed 150,000 local people on road building, debris clearance and tree planting. They also vaccinated almost 100,000 under-fives and provided 50,000 children with information to prevent the spread of HIV.

**It is amazing how one Non-Uniform Day can change the lives of people! Well done everybody!**

**PS – We also raised enough money to send a Rotary International tent by selling cakes, car washing, guessing the sweets in the jar and sponsored silences.**

## **Glee** **Don't Stop Believing** - Mrs K Walker

This year King Edward VI Humanities College is presenting 'Glee' as our college production. It is based on the very successful television programme 'Glee' which is set in the fictitious McKinley High School in Ohio in the USA. It is centred around the school show choir 'New Directions' which Spanish teacher, Mr William Schuester aims to reinstate. Our journey tracks the highs and lows of the glee members and Will Schuester, against his arch rival Sue Sylvester who coaches the successful Cheerios Cheer leader squad, and who is determined to destroy any competition. The climax of this story comes to a head at the Sectionals Competition. Can New Directions win the trophy?

Weekly rehearsals for the production have been taking place on Tuesdays after college since October. Students are working hard learning their parts and all the many songs and dances in the show. They are very excited about the performance.

Our cast and production team includes students from years 7 to 11 and many staff members. We even have ex-students taking part. Our show takes place at the college on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th March starting at 7.00pm. Please contact the main college office for information and tickets, available from Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March at £3.50 each.

## **Rock Challenge** - Mrs K Walker

King Edward VI Humanities College is happy to be taking part in the International Competition - Rock Challenge – Be Your Best which aims to encourage young people to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. It educates students about the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse and offers them the opportunity to take part in worthwhile creative pursuits. Rock Challenge Club takes place on Wednesdays here at college from 3.30 – 5.00pm.

Our Rock Challenge entry this year is based on the story of a young boy who is faced with serious and life changing events. He has the option to take the right or wrong path. Our dance and drama presentation tracks the choices he makes, sometimes choosing to go the wrong way and eventually making the right decision and successfully fulfils his dreams.

All students are welcome to take part and this activity promotes team and relationship building across the year groups. Please contact Mrs Walker at the college for further info

## **Education Sunday** - Mrs K Walker



On Sunday 20th February a group of students took part in the Education Sunday service at St James Church, Spilsby. The focus of the service was 'building' firm foundations for our children through education. Mrs Walker prepared a group of students who presented a drama piece and a song. The students who took part were Shauna-Lea Dawson who sang a solo, Thomas Bland, Rose Ward, Chloe Taylor, Lauren Todd, Courtney Clapham and Katie Hyde. Mrs Walker and Mrs Reeve also attended. We are pleased to have received a thank you card from the organiser Margaret Cook. Various members of the congregation were very complimentary about the performances and the students themselves. This is an event we take part in each year and it is an excellent way of making positive contacts within our local community.



# Football League Fixtures Year 8 and Year 10 2011



Skegness Grammar School (A)	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2011
QEGS Horncastle (H)	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2011
Skegness Academy (H)	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2011
John Spendluffe (A)	Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2011
Tennyson (H)	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2011

## PTFA News

We have had the first two draws for the 100 Club and winners for January and February are listed below. The next draw for £75 will take place on 24 March.

MONTH	TICKET NO	NAME	AMOUNT
January 2011	70	Mrs Anne Jay	£75
February 2011	15	Mr Derrick Holiday	£75

Tickets are still available. If anyone is interested in buying a ticket to be entered in the next draw they should contact Maureen Jarvis at the college. Tickets for March – December cost £20 (10 chances to win £75 and one to win £100 in December.)

The PTFA is also pleased to welcome new parents to their meetings, the next one being on Wednesday 16 March at 6.30pm in the college.

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