



ALDERMAN KNIGHT SCHOOL

ASHCHURCH ROAD, TEWKESBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, GL20 8JJ

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The new term is now well under way and the holidays are a distant memory! It has been a really positive start and already there is much to celebrate and tell you about! Therefore I thought I would write summarising some of the most notable developments and events.

Specialist Status and a new Learning Centre

We shared with you in the summer term our delight at being designated a specialist school in Communication and Interaction. This is a huge achievement and is already working to benefit both the school and our local community. As a result we will be making several additional appointments to support our work and we are also having a new Learning Centre built. This will include two class rooms and a library. This is being joint-funded by the Specialist Schools Academy Trust and the Local Authority. Plans have been drawn up and building is scheduled to start in the spring term with it being completed by September 2010.

Please note:

The Specialist Status plans and building plans will be available for viewing at the Parents evening on Thursday 1st October 09.

Additional refurbishments

During the summer holidays some additional work was carried out. This included:

- New blinds in the hall
- Painting of the small hall by Zurich
- 1 new plasma screen was installed in the ICT room.
- The school was 'deep- cleaned' by the school's new cleaning contractors.

Plans for autumn / Christmas holidays

- A further 2 white boards are to be installed.
- Office spaces are to be created for Mr Keelan and Mr Wilson.
- New pottery room to be created for Mrs Keelan
- Work space created in Food technology room with computer points and laptops.

Summer activities – During the summer holidays a team of dedicated staff led by Janet Davies organised and ran 3 weeks of activities for our own pupils and children with SEN and ASD from other schools and counties! The feedback was absolutely fantastic. Many thanks to all involved. We hope to do the same next year as well!

Pupil information

- We now have 81 pupils attending Alderman Knight full time. This is fantastic and is the most we have had for many years! In fact in the last three years 60 new pupils have joined the school!
- Eleven pupils joined us at the start of term and we have several hoping to join us soon. All are doing very well and it seems as though they have been with us far longer than four weeks!
- Currently we have 10 tutor groups – 2 primary groups, 5 Key Stage 3 groups [years 7, and 9] and 3 Key Stage 4 groups (Year 10 and 11).

Staff information

- We now have 15 teaching staff and 16 teaching assistants. Four new staff joined us in September. All appear to have settled in well! Just to remind you they are:
 - Mr Wilson as Assistant Head teacher with responsibility for Communication Technology
 - Ms Ford and Ms Tomkins – class teachers
 - Ms Link – as a teaching assistant.

Summer examination results – Congratulations to the pupils and a huge thank you to the staff.

Seven Year 11 pupils took a wide range of exams including GCSEs and Entry level courses and we were absolutely delighted with the outcomes they achieved. These were as a result of a lot of hard work and effort and all the pupils are justifiably very proud of their results. Special thanks must also be given to all the staff that taught and supported them and enabled them to achieve so well. Congratulations to the pupils and a huge thank you to the staff.

The pupils who have left have gone on to further education courses at Evesham College, Cirencester College, Glos Col, Hartpury College and The National Star College.

Grand Opening of the Multi-Use Games Area

On Wednesday 16th September 2009, James Simpson-Daniel, England and Gloucester rugby player officially opened our multi-use games area. As you know this was sponsored by the Wooden Spoon Charity. It is an amazing facility and we are extremely lucky to have it. We had a great afternoon with lots of guests including both Tewkesbury Mayors and their wives and Lord and Lady Apsley. Photographs of the afternoon are on the school website.

Community Action Project

Last year we extended our links with Tewkesbury School with students from the sixth form supporting in school across the curriculum as part of their community service. We are continuing this work this year with the help of a £4000 grant and have some exciting plans that will involve activities for pupils outside school hours as well as during the school day. Please note this project is an international project that is led by a group called the Higher Action Children's Group and has projects in many countries. The aim of the project is to link mainstream and specials schools and encourage greater inclusion and support between the schools and develop friendships between children in both schools.

What else?

Clearly many other things have happened and are planned for this year and we will try to keep you informed through the weekly newsletter that is sent home on a Friday and the website.

However please ring me if you require any additional information or would like to talk about any of the developments in more detail. We do have some Governor vacancies so if you would like to become more involved with the school then this may be an opportunity for you! Paperwork will be coming home soon!

As the year goes on we do keep a list of everything pupils' experience in the way of extra-curricular activities, visits, visitors and events and seeing it all together really shows just how many opportunities the pupils at Alderman Knight are offered. Especially for the parents of new pupils the list from last year is included with this letter so you can see just what they did! We expect to have a similar list for this year!

Best Wishes

Clare Steel
Head teacher