



HERALD

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FROM ALEC HUNTER HUMANITIES COLLEGE 5 December 2008—Issue 13 Wk A

HEADLINES *from* ANDREW HUTCHINSON

Dear Family

This week has seen the start of our Year 11 Mock Exams. Students have begun the process of preparing for their GCSE exams next Summer in a very mature, organised and responsible manner. Well done to them all for such a great start to their exams.

- ◆ Mock GCSE Results Day is on the 8 January which means parents and students of Year 11 will attend from 9.00 am onwards to receive their Mock GCSE results. All other students will attend from 10.45 am that day.

Last Friday we held our first ever edition of Alec's Got Talent which demonstrated courage and natural ability. Well done to everyone who took part. Many thanks to the capacity crowd of parents and friends who supported this charity evening in aid of our new mini bus. Many thanks to Mrs Artus, Miss Jones, Mr Moreno, Mrs Cook, Mr Wilson, Mrs Hills, Mrs Stalker, Mrs Humphrey, Mrs Pipe, Mrs Westbrook and Mrs Thompson.

ADVANCE NOTICE

College will finish at 1.05 pm on the 19 December 2008. If students require a packed lunch on this day could they please inform Mrs Humphrey in the Kitchen by Tuesday 16 December 2008.

STUDENT NAME

TERM DATES

AUTUMN TERM

3 November—19 December 2008

COLLEGE OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Visitors Reception

8.15 am - 4.15 pm Mon-Thurs

8.15 am - 3.45 pm Friday

Student Reception

8.30 am - 3.25 pm Mon-Fri

STUDENT ABSENCE HOTLINE AND E-MAIL

We would be grateful if parents reporting absence would use our new service:

Tel: 01376 559356

Email:

jackie.jackson@alechunter.essex.sch.uk

Please note this telephone number does **not** receive text messages.

www.alechunter.com



The information contained in the Herald and any other communication can be made available in large print, electronically or audio format. Please simply let us know.

LINE MANAGEMENT

Please find below our line management arrangements for students. The first point of call for enquiries should be your child's tutor and then their Pastoral Manager. Our Achievement Co-ordinators focus on your child's progress in lessons. Also included are the Leadership Group responsibilities for each Curriculum Area to help parents in knowing who to approach for assistance.

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Form Tutors				
Mrs Barnes Pastoral Leader	Mrs Porter Pastoral Leader	Mrs Porter Pastoral Leader	Mr Deeks Pastoral Leader	Mr Deeks Pastoral Leader
Mr Moreno Achievement Co-ordinator	Mrs Stringer Achievement Co- ordinator	Miss Jones Achievement Co- ordinator	Mrs Stalker Achievement Co- ordinator	Mrs Ogilvie Achievement Co- ordinator
Mrs Richards Assistant Headteacher – KS3 Director			Mrs Forster Assistant Headteacher – KS4 Director	

Should you have a subject-related query, for example, homework, e-folio, the first port of contact should be with the class teacher. Listed below are the Heads of each Curriculum Area.

Subject	Head of Curriculum Area	Senior Leader
English	Mrs Mitchell	Mrs Forster
Maths	Mr Govender	Mrs Hills
Science	Mrs Stevens	Mrs Richards
Geography/History/RE	Mr Guilford	Mr Birley
Technology and Art	Mr Todd	Mr Hutchinson
French/German/Spanish	Mrs Bradley	Mr Lawn
ICT	Ms Walker	Mr Birley
PE/Drama/Music	Mr Edwards	Mrs Hills
Citizenship	Mrs Hewes	Mr Birley
Personal Development	Mrs Artus (Co-ordinator)	Mrs Richards

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STUDENT OF THE WEEK

+YEAR 7— Sam Cybichowski

YEAR 8— Daniel Perry

YEAR 9— Ricardo Santos

MEET THE TEAM



NAME: Miss Abigail Kelly

POSITION: Teacher of English

FAVOURITE HOLIDAY DESTINATION: Spain

FAVOURITE FOOD: Anything spicy

FAVOURITE SPORT: Rowing

FAVOURITE MUSICIAN: Damian Rice

INTERESTS: Yoga

DID YOU KNOW: Miss Kelly was originally born in Kent, moved to Canada at the age of 3 and has now returned to Essex.

LISTENING CHAMPIONS

YEAR 7 Beth Sichi

YEAR 8 Daniella Burch

YEAR 9 Dominick Wiseman

YEAR 11 COURSEWORK DEADLINES

The following Year 11 coursework deadline is:

Catering Practical 3 12 December 2008

CLASSROOM CODE OF CONDUCT

FOLLOW THE SAFETY RULES

YEAR 10 BRAINTREE COLLEGE STUDENTS

Could parents of Year 10 students who attend Braintree College please note that these courses continue until the end of term.

HEADTEACHER'S SURGERY TIMES

Tuesday 9 December 4.00 pm

Thursday 11 December 9.00 am

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**SCIENCE YEAR 10 AND 11 REVISION PROGRAMME
3.30 PM—4.30 PM**

**Core Science Unit 1- B1,C1,P1—Year 10 and Year 11 re-
sits—Exam 12 January**

Wednesday 10th December- The Earth in the Universe- Mr Lee – F4

**Core Science Unit 3- B3,C3,P3—Year 11 only—Exam 19
January**

Wednesday 7th January – Food Matters – Mrs Stevens – F5

Thursday 8th January – Life On Earth – Mrs Richards –F8

Wednesday 14th January – Radioactive Materials – Mr Lee – F4

**Additional Science unit 1- B4,C4,P4—Year 11 resits only—
Exam 21 January**

Monday 12th January- Chemical Patterns- Mrs Stalker- F3

Thursday 15th January- Homeostasis- Mrs Hoenderkamp- F2

Friday 16th January- Explaining Motion – Mr Booth – F6

HOLIDAYS TAKEN IN TERM TIME

Please note the following revision to the Leave of Absence Request Form:

The Essex Code of Conduct for penalty notices in relation to school absence is revised annually. This updated version is effective from 3 December 2008. This year it has been decided that, due to the increase in term time holidays, penalty notices will be issued for unauthorised holidays, regardless of the absentee rate of pupils.

If parents wish a period of absence to be authorised they must make an application in advance and on the appropriate form, available from the College Office.

CITIZENSHIP COPE PRESENTATIONS

As part of Cope, Year 9 have been completing their active class presentations. Each student's task was to prepare a 5 minute powerpoint presentation on a subject of their choice which would include an active element (can I just say that I was amazed at how much thought and planning they had done)!

Maria Thomas organised for her mum to bring in her pet dragon 'Daisy'. 9H thoroughly enjoyed meeting 'Daisy' and holding her

Daniel Grist stimulated the group's taste buds with a shortbread presentation and tasting—he cooked enough shortbread for the entire group—delicious!

Daniel Flint stunned us with his musical intelligence and brought in his electric guitar and cornet.

These are to name but a few

A huge well done to 9H, the presentations were truly fantastic.

Mrs Hewes

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PARENT KNOW HOW

SERVICES FOR DADS

Social Media:

Info, help and practical advice for all dads. Includes Dads Space 121—an online space to help fathers stay in contact with their children.

www.dads-space.com
www.respect.uk.net

Dad Talk

A news, information and social network site for all dads everywhere to share and discuss their most important job ever, fatherhood.

www.dadtalk.co.uk
family@familymatters.org.uk

YOUNG ESSEX ASSEMBLY

This week our College has been busy voting for 5 of our students who are campaigning to gain a seat on the YEA, which is the Young Essex Assembly and U16 Youth Parliament.

The 5 students are:

Ekenna Oji	9E
Maria Thomas	9H
Billy Kelleher	11A
Jade Field	11R
Bronwyn Morley	9N

Throughout the week all of these students have visited each of the College's year assemblies to promote themselves.

A huge good luck to these students, they will know if they have gained a seat on Monday! Results to follow!

YEAR 7 STUDENTS

Do you need help with computers or e-portfolio, if so why not come to A5 on a Friday lunchtime—1.05-1.50.

If you can't make Friday lunchtime the Library is open after college every day from 3.20-5.00 pm.

SCIENCE REVISION GUIDES

Year 10 and 11 students. Please ask your science teacher for a letter showing your choices in buying revision books. Return completed letter and money to your teacher to purchase the guides.

Year 7, 8 and 9 students please see Mr Booth.

Revision guides can be used to prepare for exams and to help with your homework. Mrs Stevens

CITIZENSHIP NEWS

Over the next two weeks the entire Year 7 will be participating in an active 'charity unit' as part of their Citizenship education.

All of the groups have chosen a class charity and will be actively raising money for this charity in an informal competition to see who can raise the most money.

If any of the community has any old plant pots, compost or bulbs, Year 7 would be very grateful for them.

Many thanks

Mrs Hewes

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CHANGES TO BUS SERVICES IN BRAINTREE FROM MONDAY 8 DECEMBER 2008

Teachers and students who use First Bus to get to college should be aware there are major changes to the bus services from Monday 8 December.

The No 30 and 37 have been merged into one called the No 30 service. The No 72 service will operate between Witham and Chelmsford. The Braintree and Witham route will be replaced by the new service No 132.

Please find attached to the Herald the new No 30 service timetable which lists the new times and bus route. The new arrival time at Stubbs Lane will be 8.44 am. Students who arrive late as a result of these new bus times should show their bus tickets to Mrs Jackson at the late door if the new bus times make them late.

If you, like Mr Hutchinson, are unhappy with the new bus times, we suggest you do as we have done and call or write to the Bus Company on **0845 6782 977**. For more information you can also go online www.firstgroup.com where you can find all the bus service changes and timetables.

E-FOLIO AT ALEC HUNTER

You are probably aware that E-folio is a fantastic service for our students. It is an online learning environment where students can log on (via the website) and access homework and class-work tasks, email their teachers and communicate with each other.

We will shortly be putting up a guide to E-folio on the website to help parents access the service.

Please discuss E-folio with your child and find out more.

FIRE DRILL

Over the past two weeks, we have had a number of fire drills. Whilst these fire drills are a legal requirement for us to carry out, some of the most recent drills have been carried out as a result of irresponsible young students who have disturbed the learning of 1000 students each time.

Whilst it has only been a very small number of students, each has been punished by a fixed term exclusion for a fire related incident, which will remain on their College record, their names have been reported to the Police and Fire Brigade, which normally results in an interview with the student and parents and a £20 bill for the cost of replacing the fire call point glass has been sent to their home address.

WERE YOU A PUPIL AT ALEC HUNTER?

On our website we now have an Alumni section where you can post an account of what you are doing now and find out what others are doing.

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ALEC'S GOT TALENT

Newspaper articles

YMCA steals the show at Alec's got Talent!

Staff and students got together to put on a performance on Friday 28th November 2008 of Alec's Got Talent for staff, students, family and friends of Alec Hunter which was a take on the X Factor and Britain's got Talent.

The night consisted of 40 acts of singing, dancing, sketches and musicians with four of them from staff members which consisted of Thriller by female staff, Poi, the Rumba and YMCA by male staff.

The YMCA brought the house down with their performance by way of male members of staff dressed up in a variety of occupations, dancing, singing and really getting the audience on their feet.

Where on the other hand, the female staff had the audience glued to their seats with their version of Thriller, dressed as zombies wearing 3D makeup to highlight the zombie like features.

Three students and three members of staff made up the judges who dressed in the characters of Simon Cowell—Paul Freeman, Louis Walsh—Joe Rush, Peers Morgan—Elliot Boakes, Amanda Holden—Jemima Paine, Sharon Osbourne—Meredith Hilton and Cheryl Cole—Clare Pipe who all had Y11 students as their security guards that would lead them to their judging panel of Xs where the judges really performed to their character giving the students feedback in a constructive yet realistic way.

The winner of Alec's got Talent was Akera Wakeling, a Year 11 student who sang Hero accompanied by Tim Bousfield, a very gifted piano player. Akera has a beautiful voice and we are lucky to have such a talented student at our College.

Mrs Artus would like to give a big thank you to all students and staff that took part in the talent show, Miss Jones for her choreography of Thriller, YMCA staff, Thriller staff, Clive Moreno and Sarah Canning, Patsy Cook for the makeup, Gareth Hammond - Luke Hammond's father and students for lights and sound, Mark Hammond and students for video, Peter Wilson and students for backstage and props, Mrs Hills, Mrs Stalker, Mr Birley, Mr Lawn and Mr Hutchinson for their support on entrance and time during the evening, Mrs Humphrey, Mrs Hills and canteen staff for refreshments, our Year 11 security guards, our fantastic judges, Mrs Pipe for her support and time last week, Mrs Westbrook and Mrs Thompson for supporting the show backstage, The Red Cross Steering Group and Charlie Schofield and Katie Morley for presenting the evening (our very own Ant and Dec!)

Akera Wakeling—The winner of Alec's Got Talent

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TEMPORARY COLLEGE CLOSURE DUE TO EXCEPTIONAL WEATHER OR OTHER EMERGENCIES

This is a reminder to parents that during some winters we have weather that can make opening the college dangerous; this is for the main reasons:

- College staff cannot drive to college safely or are advised by motoring organisations, police or environment agency not to drive. In this situation, where many of our students can get to College, we do not have enough staff to safely supervise and teach students
- The weather conditions make the access and external areas of the College too slippery for safe use. Due to parents and members of the public in other schools previously suing schools for health related injuries, due to slippery areas, the College cannot operate under these circumstances.

Should it prove necessary to close the College at short notice, a sign will be placed on the gate and local radio stations will broadcast details of our closure. These will be:

BBC Radio Essex 103.5 / 95.3 fm
Essex FM 102.6 / 96.3
On the front page of the College website

Please be assured the decision to close the college is never taken lightly.

MEMORIAL GARDEN

We are planning a memorial garden dig on a Saturday in the Spring (details to follow) to kick start the Wendy Morgan Memorial Garden.

If you would like to be involved or even have any garden or building materials to donate please contact lisa.artus@alechunter.essex.sch.uk.

Better still, if you would be interested in sponsoring the garden in some way please let us know.

Many thanks.

YEAR 10 STUDY SKILLS DAY

On Tuesday 2nd December 48 students from Year 10 took part in an Aim Higher Study Skills Workshop at Alec Hunter Humanities College.

Mr Ivan Town led the 5 hour session and it soon became apparent to our students that this workshop was different from others they may have attended. Throughout the day the students worked hard and they covered a wide range of skills including active listening, brain clubbing, time management, revision, mind mapping (even how to write an essay in 3 minutes!).

One of the first statements students' wrote on the covers of their workbooks was 'I am in control'. From talking to the students throughout the day the workshop has gone a long way to achieving this aim, empowering students to take control of their learning, whilst having a lot of fun in the process.

Mr Town commented that the students who took part *'were a credit to the school and a pleasure to teach'* and *'need to be congratulated on the mature way they made the day a success'*. Well done Year 10!!! Mr Lee

Some of the students' comments were:

"I found the day really interesting and I would like another one in Year 11. it was fun and informative and Ivan was funny"

"It was very interesting I learnt a lot. It will help me revise for exams and gain extra marks".

"Really good fun, funny, learnt some really good skills, mind maps etc. New ideas, cool, useful"

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