



HERALD

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FROM ALEC HUNTER HUMANITIES COLLEGE 5 March 2010—Issue 18 Wk B

HEADLINES *from* ANDREW HUTCHINSON

Dear Family

This part of the year is very important for students to work hard, in order to achieve their best results in the Summer. We know that hard work and concentration leads to the best results, and good results lead to students having the greatest choices for their futures.

- Concentrate fully in every lesson, always being willing to participate in learning activities
- Ensure they complete homework on the night it is set, always working for the correct amount of time, as specified in the student organiser
- Re-draft work to ensure their final piece is the best work they can produce
- Ensure they meet all deadlines for homework, class work and coursework
- Revise fully for any tests
- Present their work to the best of their ability
- Ensure they are organised and have brought the correct equipment and books to every lesson

STUDENT NAME

TERM DATES

SPRING TERM
4 January—1 April 2010
EASTER HOLIDAY
2—16 April 2010

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
jackie.jackson@alechunter.essex.sch.uk
Text: 07781474810

'BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE'



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 Ogilvie Achievement Co-ordinator	Mrs Stringer Achievement Co-ordinator	Miss Jones Achievement Co-ordinator	Mrs Stalker Achievement Co-ordinator
Mrs Richards Assistant Headteacher – KS3 Director			Mrs Hills Assistant Headteacher – KS4 Director	

Mrs C Truscott	Pastoral Manager / AfA
Miss T Leack	Child Protection
Mrs J Jackson	Attendance Officer

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	Mr Ellams	Mr Birley
Maths	Mr Govender	Mrs Hills
Science	Mrs Stevens	Miss Leack
Geography/History/RE	Mr Guilford	Mr Birley
Technology and Art	Mr Todd	Miss Leack
French/German/Spanish	Mrs Bradley	Mr Lawn
ICT	Ms Walker	Mr Birley
PE/Drama/Music	Mr Edwards	Mrs Richards
Citizenship	Mr Barber	Mr Birley
Personal Development	Mrs Artus (Co-ordinator)	Mrs Richards

'BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE'



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.

CLASSROOM CODE OF CONDUCT

COME PREPARED

VISITOR'S CAR PARK

We would like to remind parents that the Visitor's Car Park is closed between 3.10 pm and 3.30 pm to enable the safe departure of our students.

CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to the following students, who cashed in a page of merits with Mrs Jackson this week;

Wade Sinclair
Lucy Carpenter

Special congratulations goes to Chelsea Clark who cashed in four pages of merits and received her £5 Freeport Voucher from Mrs Jackson.

SAINSBURY / TESCO VOUCHERS



Yes, It is that time of year again. We are now collecting Sainsburys and Tescos vouchers. Please send your vouchers into the College or place them in the box situated in the College reception.

Last year we collected £15,000 worth of sports equipment, including Table Tennis Tables, Badminton equipment etc.



HERALD ONLINE

If you want to receive the Herald online, visit our website:

www.alechunter.com

Then enter your email address into the box on the left, it's very simple.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Callan Bragg	Year 7
Jordan Clark	Year 8
Emma Norris	Year 9

LISTENING CHAMPIONS

Callum Chapman	Year 7
Beth Sichi	Year 8
David Aylott	Year 9

LIBRARY / MEDIA SUITE

The Media Suite is open for students every morning from 8.00 am—8.45 am and the Library is open every evening for students from 3.20 pm—5.00 pm.

'BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE'



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.

PERSISTENT ABSENT STUDENTS

The Government is taking a keen interest in reducing the number of 'persistent absentee' children who miss more than 20% of school sessions. In pursuit of the 'Every Child Matters' agenda, the Local Authority is keen to support all schools in the drive to reduce this level of persistent absence and expects all schools to set targets accordingly.

A Persistent Absent student is defined as having at least 64 sessions (32 days) of absence in a full attendance year regardless of whether these absences are **authorised or unauthorised**. In real terms, this relates to students with attendance of below 80%.

APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR STUDENTS DURING COLLEGE TERM TIME

Due to a recent influx of applications we feel the need to clarify our position in approving requests for leave of absence.

Parents **do not** have a statutory right to 10 days leave of absence per academic year, although many believe this to be so. The college may consider approving a request for leave against criteria given by the Local Authority and only if there are exceptional circumstances. For any leave event to be considered a student's attendance must be very high.

Whilst we understand that holidays are cheaper during term time, this cannot be considered as a valid reason for approval, nor can odd days off for long weekends.

We would politely request that parents do not put the college in the position of having to decline approval for a leave of absence, which may lead to a referral to the Education Welfare Service. We greatly value the success of our students and any absence can be to the detriment of a student's learning. It is therefore imperative that avoidable absences like holidays are discouraged.

We greatly value the positive relationship between parents and the college and we would hope that you share and support our views regarding this issue.

OPERATION READ



We Want You!!

Students from Years 7 and 8—don't groan about reading or books any more - sign up for an exciting new competition—you will be given your own Unit Commander and missions to accomplish—great national and internal school prizes.

Are you up for the challenge?

Can you lead your unit into battle and win?

See the 'Operation Read' board outside the library and sign up inside your unit will be advised to you before half term.

FREE ENGLISH CLASSES

**Is English your second language?
Do you want to improve your English
Language skills?**

If so, Alec Hunter Humanities College
Will be holding **Free** classes from 5.30—
6.30 pm
Every Thursday
Starting 28 January 2010
(Except school holidays)

To enrol, please contact Mrs Lisa Artus
Alec Hunter Humanities College
01376 321813
Email lisa.artus@alechunter.essex.sch.uk

'BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE'



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.

2 March 2010

Dear Parent/Carer

Important information about our college

The Governors of our College are considering changing the status of the College from a Community School to a Foundation School, so that the College can join an educational trust. By joining an educational trust this will enable our College to work better with other schools and colleges to bring new courses, apprenticeships and educational opportunities for our students.

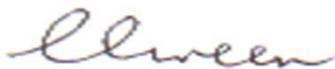
If the College were to become a Foundation School, and join a Trust, our Governors would take on extra responsibilities for the College. We would keep our own governors, headteacher and staff, and parents would still be represented on the Governing Body. We would keep the same admissions criteria as we have now and we would keep the ability to make our own decisions about how we run our College.

There are already many other Foundation Schools in Essex and the Government is encouraging schools to form Trusts. We understand that the Local Authority would be happy to support us in becoming a Foundation School, and entering a Trust, although they would want to see the details of the proposal before formally supporting us.

The Governing Body is at a very early stage in thinking about these matters and no decisions have been made. We wanted to take the opportunity to write to our parents, carers and members of the community to explain the possibilities and the opportunities which our College has and we are enclosing information about becoming a Foundation School and entering a Trust.

If you would like to give us some feedback about this matter, then we would be grateful if could return the Questionnaire which accompanies this letter.

Yours faithfully



Professor Chris Green
Chair of Governors

Information about Foundation Schools and Educational Trusts

Our Vision for Education in Braintree and the local area

Our vision is to establish the Coggeshall and Braintree Learning and Education (CABLE) Trust as a shared Trust between the four partner schools in the Braintree Sixth Form (Alec Hunter Humanities College, Honywood Community Science School, Notley High School and Tabor Science College) with Colchester Institute: the College at Braintree.

The CABLE Trust will enhance the number and range of courses available for students aged 14-19. It will provide more vocational courses and opportunities for apprenticeships, as well as more courses for Gifted and Talented students. It will provide new progression routes into the Braintree Sixth Form and Colchester Institute: the College at Braintree.

By forming a Trust the schools will be able to collaborate together better, sharing resources and expertise, so that we can raise standards of achievement for all learners across the area. Working with Colchester Institute (which has strong links with the University of Essex) will bring additional opportunities to enhance those already available in the local area. The Trust will include employers and members of the local community, so we will be able to make sure that our young people are fully equipped to go into the workplace.

Why we are interested in becoming a Foundation School?

In order to enter into a Trust, such as the CABLE Trust, our College must first become a Foundation School. We believe that there are educational advantages for our students in entering a Trust, so we are therefore interested in becoming a Foundation School, as a first step to entering a Trust. The Governing Body has sought guidance and advice from the Foundation and Aided Schools National Association (FASNA), the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Trust and Foundation Schools Partnership (TFSP) regarding the path that the College needs to travel in order to change from being a Community School to becoming a Foundation School with a Trust.

What are the implications of being a Foundation School?

If our College becomes a Foundation School the Governors will take on extra responsibilities, which are currently exercised by Essex County Council. The Governing Body would become the employer of College staff, take the responsibility for owning the land and school buildings and it would become responsible for the admissions process.

How will becoming a Foundation School affect parents?

In becoming a Foundation School the Governors will receive powers to change the admissions criteria. But the Governors are committed to retaining the current admissions criteria and working closely with Essex County Council in the future to ensure continued fair access. If we become a Foundation School and enter a Trust, the only difference which parents should see is greater course choice and opportunities for our students, both in College and in terms of what they can progress on to after they leave school.

How will becoming a Foundation School affect employees?

All College staff, both teaching and support staff, would be employed by the Governing Body. The existing rights of teachers and support staff would be fully protected. Our College would continue to be bound by the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document and it would continue to follow national arrangements for support staff. The rights of Trade Unions would continue to be recognised. All staff would be protected by employment regulations and employees would continue to be represented on the Governing Body. It is envisaged that the proposed change of status would mean no change to our current staffing structure. Our ability to recruit, retain and develop our teachers through their opportunity to teach in the sixth form will be enhanced through the formation of the Trust.

What are the implications of being in a Trust?

To become a Trust School, by entering the CABLE Trust, a school must already be a Foundation School and therefore all the changes described above would apply. Trust Schools remain part of the Local Authority (LA) system but the assets of the school would be held in the charitable Trust. The Trust would not "own" the school, nor would it employ any school staff or have any responsibility for running the school. The school budget would still come directly to the school and the Governing body would continue to have full responsibilities for running the school.

The fact that the College is in a Trust should make no practical difference to parents, staff or students, apart from the greater opportunities which we believe will come to our students, as a result of working more closely with partners in the Trust.

How can I find out more about Foundation schools and Trusts?

Please see the following websites:

- The Foundation and Aided Schools National Association (FASNA)
www.fasna.org.uk
- The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)
www.dcsf.gov.uk/schoolorg/guidance.cfm?id=25
The Trust and foundation schools partnership (TFSP)
www.trustandfoundationschools.org.uk

You can also contact the college for further information.

What is the consultation process?

For the Governing Body to be able to proceed with making a decision, a formal consultation process must begin. This letter, questionnaire and information are the first stage of the process, asking for your views by 1st April 2010. The Governing Body will then consider views before deciding whether to proceed further and whether amendments to proposals are needed. Feedback from the first stage of the consultation will be provided by letter and on the website.

If the governors decide to proceed with a change of status, there will be a further opportunity to comment in the Summer term. Meanwhile, your views are very much valued and all of us on the Governing Body look forward to your response.

Prof Chris Green
Chair of Governors