

# ah Humanities College

alec hunter  
humanities college

# Update

Summer Term 2009

## COOKING UP A STORM

We continue our close partnership with recognised children's poets as we know that they inspire our students to write. This is an account of Paul Cookson's recent visit by Heather Hogan:

'This week children's poet, Paul Cookson, visited Alec Hunter to read poetry to the students.

His wit and humour made students laugh and his poems were simply genius. He is a very good player on the ukulele while at the same time performing his poems and encouraging the students to join in. Some of us have worked with him in poetry workshops, writing poems and reciting them. Some of these poems are pretty unusual but his goal was to make everyone laugh and be entertained. It was an overall success as everyone came out of the hall in a great mood and with big smiles on their faces. Despite the hot weather, everyone had a great time listening to his work and his stories.

His jokes and his witty comments were extremely funny and had the grumpiest of people laughing! **Thanks for coming Paul.**



## “MOST IMPROVED SCHOOL”

Our success as a Specialist College was recognized earlier this term, when we were awarded “Most Improved School” by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust. The award comes at a fitting time, as we are poised to enter our fiftieth year.



Specialist Schools  
and Academies Trust  
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY

# Tudor Days...

Our support of our Partner Primary Schools continues using our expertise as a Humanities College. Recently, all Year 5 students from Lyons Hall, Great Bradfords, Crossing, Beckers Green and Stisted primary schools came to Alec Hunter to enjoy Tudor Day.

As usual, the morning involved different sessions on Tudor Art, Sport, Science, Crime and Punishment, Arms and Armour and Food. In the afternoon, students were involved in an inter-active presentation on Tudor Medicine followed by a film of the day which we forward on to the Primary Schools as a record of events. Much fun and learning went on and the quotes below highlight how much students enjoyed their experiences:

*'I liked the armour session because it was really fun doing the presentations in our groups.'* Chloe, Lyons Hall

*'I learnt that people grew herbs in their gardens.'* Scott, Lyons Hall

*'Tudor art was fun making the Tudor rose and getting messy. I have learnt that the Tudors used some very nasty techniques for curing people.'* Leon, Lyons Hall

*'I liked Crime and Punishment because we got to make slideshows and present them. I learnt that to make leather smooth they put it in urine.'* Cara, Lyons Hall



# ...are here Again!

*'Tudor sport was good because it was funny and you got to do all the sport that they did. I've learnt how heavy the armour was.'* Harry, Lyons Hall

*'I liked the Tudor Sport because the activities were fun.'* Ross, Stisted

*'I learnt that Tudors had different types of swords.'* Frederick, Stisted

*'I loved making the bread because of the lovely smells and wonderful bread patterns.'*  
Hollie, Great Bradfords

*'Cool games even though they were supposed to be played violently.'*  
Rachel, Great Bradfords

*'They had different sports but the punishments were bad.'* Joshua, Great Bradfords

*'They used leeches to suck out blood.'* Isobel, Great Bradfords



# Alec Hunter Learning Village

At Alec Hunter we are keen to develop our community offering by developing part of our site as a community learning village for adults in East Braintree to develop their qualifications and skills. The facility would link our College Library to what was the Youth Centre. Plans have been drawn up for a high spec computer facility, exhibition space, meeting rooms and archiving facilities to preserve family and local historical records. We eagerly await the outcome of our bid and will keep you posted on developments.

## COMMUNITY CARD

We are developing further links in the community of East Braintree through our work with the Co-op. One way that both organizations can benefit each other is through the use of the Community Card. By using our local Co-ops we are supporting local stores that serve all our needs. At the same time we earn points for ourselves and the College that can be converted into cash back on our shopping and money for the School.

If you are interested in a Co-op Community Card please speak to Lisa Artus on: 01376 321813 or email: [lisa.artus@alechunter.essex.sch.uk](mailto:lisa.artus@alechunter.essex.sch.uk)

The **co-operative**

## Red Cross News

### Babysitting Skills

One important aspect of our Red Cross partnership is the Red Cross babysitting course which prepares young people for the challenge of looking after younger siblings. The students below have just graduated with flying colours in the following skill areas:

- *Rights and the law*
- *Accident prevention and fire safety*
- *Looking after babies*
- *First Aid*
- *Infections*
- *Challenging situations*



Very well done to Rochelle Cox, Grace Chapman, Lucy Abbott, Lucy Norwood, Abbie Murkin, and Chelsea Roberts who all completed the course.

# What a Performance!

Our partnership with the Jack Petchey Foundation has continued to allow us to sponsor Public Speaking at Alec Hunter. Public Speaking workshops and a Public Speaking competition are now annual events and emphasize our desire to help students develop their potential to the full in this area.

In a recent workshop, students perfected techniques for delivering interesting and stimulating speeches; skills which will hold them in good stead throughout their working lives. Mr Lawn and Miss Norwood judged that the most impressive speeches were delivered by Catherine Millross and Vicky Turner. All participants, but particularly Catherine and Vicky, did fantastically well. Both girls represented the College in the Regional final at Honeywood School though on the night only Catherine spoke, putting in a sterling performance on behalf of the College. Congratulations to all for the high standards they achieved. Students who took part were:

*James Banks, Jody Baxter, Chloe Beckett, Paul Bettis, Lee Bingham, Elliot Boakes, Aaron Boreham, Thomas Braybrook, James Bruce, Declan Byrnes, Charlotte Bywaters, Mitchell Childs, Megan Clark, Charlotte Hollick, Martin Lee, Natalie Miller, Catherine Millross, Adam Moody, Jemima Paine, Rebecca Perrin, James Pipe, Paul Quance, Amy Read, Kelly Snowling, Mark Taylor, Victoria Turner, Lia Woodhead and Joshua Wotton.*



## Community Book Club

Have you ever wanted to discuss a book or ask questions about specific themes in a novel?

Perhaps you would like to explore different points of view?



If so contact Linda Whitaker on **01376 321813** or come along to Alec Hunter Humanities College on the first Tuesday of every month (*except during School Holidays*) from 7pm. Starting on 8th September. Refreshments will be provided.

## 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 7-8pm every Thursday of each Month from 10th September, (except during School Holidays).

*To enrol, please contact Mrs Lisa Artus at Alec Hunter Humanities College, Tel: 01376 321813 or Email on [lisa.artus@alechunter.essex.sch.uk](mailto:lisa.artus@alechunter.essex.sch.uk)*

# Applied History

One important investment we have made as a Specialist College is to partner with the National examination awarding body, OCR, to develop a new history GCSE to challenge and inspire our learners to even greater things. Amy Read explains how Applied History works:



‘As one of my options, I took Applied History. I chose to do Applied History because I thought that I would enjoy working in groups and individually on coursework while not worrying about an approaching exam. The exam is one main thing which is completely different from any other topic; it has no exam at all which is great! I find that after just over a year of Applied History, I have not changed my opinion. It has proven to be an interesting lesson with many different things that I can try. In Applied History there are four different topics which are involved:

*The first topic we did was about the Olympics, where we had to write an essay which discussed the Olympics while also answering a set question. I feel that this project was difficult but it was made easier to handle because Miss Depper was there to help us improve.*

*The second topic was either about Raiders and Invaders or about Medieval Kings. Our group did about the Medieval Kings and I found that it was quite easy as we had our research at our fingertips. The project consisted of a question and we had to write an essay to answer it, however; this essay had to be written over a week using 4 hours in lessons and 1 hour as homework.*

*The third topic was Heritage Marketing which was about the history of anything in Braintree and this had to be a project. We have learnt many things about Braintree which we weren't aware of before. I can't believe that I have lived in such a historic town.*

There has been great team building tasks such as, in Heritage Marketing, you can do an ‘Apprentice’ based task. For me I found that it boosted my confidence when working together and I felt very happy when we did the presentation at the end.’

## Preparations for the Fiftieth Anniversary, by the History Club.....

Charlie Schofield reports on the History Club’s plans for the College’s fiftieth anniversary.

‘The College will be celebrating this landmark event with the publication of a book on the College, an exhibition at Braintree Museum, a Festival of Reunion and many more events.

Currently, History Club are working on their fiftieth anniversary project.

The project is a windows media player video incorporating all aspects of life at Alec ‘then and now.’ The video is going to include a presentation created and presented by the History Club. It will also include interviews with senior staff. We hope that it will be played as part of Braintree Museum’s exhibition”.



## MOCK TRIAL REGIONAL FINALISTS

The success that the College is having promoting speaking and listening is also reflected in the continued achievements of our Mock Trials team. The Mock Trial team took part in the Regional Final of the Magistrates Court Mock Trial Competition 2009. The students had to work on an extra case after their success in the Essex heat back in March. The Final was held at the Medway Magistrates Court in Kent and included the best teams from Essex, Suffolk and Kent. The Alec Hunter Team prepared thoroughly and put in an excellent performance, winning both cases. Unfortunately only one team could progress to the final and we did not win despite our efforts. Our progress to the final bodes well for the future and the whole team is raring to go for next year. Team members:

*Hannah Burnitt, Isabela Rotaru,  
Shannon Cullen, Katie Morley,  
Ashley Howard, Kirsty Luckin,  
Alex Jenkins, Bronwyn Morley,  
Charlie Schofield, Sarah Solomon,  
Ashley Solomon, Ashley Elkington,  
Josh Aylward*



## Women's Land Army Celebrations

Alec Hunter's links with Braintree District Council mean that we can support each other in different ways. Alec Hunter students recently supported a celebration in Braintree to remember the Women's Land Army who worked in the fields during the Second World War whilst the men were away fighting. Lucy Norwood reports on the event.....

'On the 6th of July, 5 members of History Club went to Braintree Institute, where they were having a Women's Land Army event. Several women that had been in the Land Army during the Second World War came and shared their own experiences and stories with us, as we served them tea and cakes.

They also received certificates from the Lord Lieutenant of Essex and the Chairman of Braintree Council, congratulating them. A swing band played hits from the 1940's and some people got up and danced.

Overall, there was a great atmosphere and I thought the event was enjoyed by everyone who came. It was nice to hear the ladies' fascinating stories and I am glad I was part of the event. I think everyone had a great time.'



# Queen of the Castle

The Year 7's took the Alec Hunter castle competition to a new level this year. 138 castles were built by the year group – a new record!! This year's castles were built from different materials including plasticine, wood, cardboard and even a castle made from cans. The castles varied from a reconstruction of a Motte and Bailey to the later stone castles. The castles were showcased in the school hall where all the pupils in Year 7 were able to judge the winner. Alongside the pupils Lesley Killin, from the Braintree Museum, judged the castles. Lesley stated how the castles on show were some of the best she has seen. She was so impressed by their quality that next year the castles will be showcased at the Braintree Museum. The winner of the castle competition whose work impressed everybody most was Molly Lucas Williams. Lauren Cocca and Jessica Sewell came 2nd and 3rd respectively. Well done to everybody who entered.



## Festival of Reunion

Saturday 12th  
September 2009  
2 - 8pm

Alec Hunter Humanities  
College in Braintree

Tickets available from Alec Hunter Humanities College from Friday 5th June 2009. Call Mrs. Lisa Artus on 01376 321813 or Email: [lisa.artus@alechunter.essex.sch.uk](mailto:lisa.artus@alechunter.essex.sch.uk)

• Adults - £2 • Concessions - £1 • Under - 10s FREE!

- VIP OPENING • BOOK LAUNCH - David Possee commemorates Alec Hunter, the Man and the School • ESSEX SAMBA BAND
- MARXMEN YOUTH BAND • ALEC HUNTER CHEERLEADERS
- 1960's SPORTS DAY • QUIZZES • TIME CAPSULE • ARCHERY
- BBQ • FACE PAINTING • BALLOON LAUNCH • TREASURE HUNT
- BOUNCY CASTLES • STILT WALKER
- CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINERS
- STARBUCKS • RAFFLE
- JAZZ • REFRESHMENTS
- MINI-QUAD BIKES
- MAGIC SHOW

Stubbs Lane, Braintree, Essex CM7 3NR

Purchasing a ticket also allows you to FREE admission to Braintree Museum's Exhibition of 'Alec Hunter, The Man' and 'Alec Hunter, The School' on Saturday 12th September 2009.

