

HERALD

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FROM ALEC HUNTER HUMANITIES COLLEGE 12th September 2011—Issue 1 Wk A

HEADLINES from TREVOR LAWN, ACTING HEADTEACHER

Dear Family

Welcome back after what I hope was a relaxing and restorative summer break. It has been a real pleasure to observe the enthusiasm with which our students have returned from their holidays, ready to face the challenges of a new term, and to welcome a new group of Year 7 students too. They enjoyed a fabulous team-building day on Tuesday (more details inside), and have already made an impressive start to their time at Alec Hunter.

You may have seen reports of our GCSE results in the local newspapers, and we are once again delighted with the outcomes for our students. **46%** of our students this year achieved the benchmark 5 or more A*-C including English and Maths, and **94%** are leaving us with 5 or more A*-G grades. We are very pleased with these figures.

2 years ago, we only gained 31% for the former measure, so this is confirmation that the huge step forward we took last year was not just a one-off. We were aware that this year group were less able overall than last year's, so we feel satisfied that this outcome represents definite consolidation of our progress. It is a credit to the expertise of our staff, the patient support of parents and above all, the dedication of students, that these results have been secured.

We are particularly delighted with some outstanding individual performances from: **Daniel Flint, Abigail Ruggles, Bronwyn Morley and Alexandra Card** – all of whom gained 7 A or A* grades, as well as **Shaun Whiteley, Alex Jenkins, Simon Thompson and Ivan Shipulin**, who each achieved 6 A or A* grades.

There were also some outstanding performances from our younger students: 59% of our current Y11 students gained A*-C in their Humanities GCSE Modular exam, while 100% of our Triple Scientists achieved A*-C in their Physics exam, and 65% of them gained an A or A* in Chemistry. Even our current Y10 students got in on the act, with 63 of the 74 students (85%) who took Short Course GCSE Citizenship gaining an A*-C grade, and 96% of the year group passing the French Foundation GCSE, with 31% getting a Distinction. Well done to all of you!

There have been several modifications to our site over the summer too, the most notable of which have been our canteen development and move to a cashless payment system (more details inside), and the completion of the Learning Village as a community ICT and conference facility (more details inside). In addition, we have developed the Science Quad into a Prefect Area, extended one of our ICT rooms to increase capacity, and put new computers and interactive whiteboards into numerous classrooms. We very much hope that the students will show their appreciation for these improvements to the College environment by looking after the new facilities and the rest of our site.

OPEN EVENING.

Please note that College will close early at 1:05pm on Thursday 29th September due to our annual Open Evening. The Silver End bus will depart at 1:30pm. College is closed to students on Friday 30th September, as this is a staff training day.

TERM DATES

AUTUMN TERM

7 September- 21 October 2011

Half Term

24 October - 28 October 2011

INSET DAYS

30 September 2011

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

Uniform Shop

Tuesday 3.20 pm—4.00 pm
(for sizing and collections only)

STUDENT ABSENCE

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

Tel: 01376 559356

jackie.jackson@alehunter.essex.sch.uk

Text: 07598393348

Please be aware the text number is only for texts and there is no facility for voicemails.

ATTENDANCE TARGET 93.5%

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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 Leader. 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 Truscott Pastoral Leader	Mrs Porter Pastoral Leader	Mr Deeks Pastoral Leader	Mr Deeks Pastoral Leader
Miss Jones Achievement Co-ordinator	Mr Box Achievement Co-ordinator	Mr Moreno Achievement Co-ordinator	Mrs Ogilvie/ Miss McEvoy Achievement Co-ordinator	Mrs Stringer Achievement Co-ordinator
Mr Birley Assistant Headteacher	Mrs Richards Assistant Headteacher		Miss Chamberlain Assistant Headteacher	

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	Mr Fox
Science	Mrs Stevens	Miss Leack
Geography/History/RE/ Citizenship	Miss Thurston / Mr Barber	Mr Lawn
Technology and Art	Mr Todd	Mr Lawn
French/German/Spanish	Mrs Holmes	Mr Fox
ICT	Ms Walker	Miss Chamberlain
PE/Drama/Music	Mr Edwards	Mrs Richards
Personal Development	Mrs Artus (Co-ordinator)	Mrs Richards
Special Educational Needs	Mrs Coverdale	Miss Leack

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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.

TEAM BUILDING DAY

Our annual team building day for the new Year 7 students took place on September 6th. The students arrived very eager and ready to start their new school. The aim of the day was for them to get used to their tutor groups and find their way round the college. Activities included : Chair building where groups had to build a chair using only newspaper and sellotape, the chair had to support another student's weight, a treasure hunt where the students followed clues around the college to find different departments. All students had fun and left the college with big smiles on their faces.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

The Science Department are in need of any empty clean ice cream containers, margarine containers etc. Please can you bring them into College and leave at reception or take them to the Science Department.



MILL HOUSE SCHOOL SCHEME

We have joined the Mill House School Scheme, whereby every £1.00 spent by our parents and friends in Millhouse shops, the college will gain 0.10p credit, which can be spent to support various areas of the college.

When you purchase any off-the-shelf goods, from Millhouse shops, all you have to do is mention Alec Hunter Humanities College at the time of purchase and we will be awarded a credit.

SEPTEMBER DIARY DATES

14th September - Sports Award Evening

15th September - Year 10 Target Setting Evening

29th September - Open Evening

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CASHLESS CATERING



Overall the implementation has been a great success. Thank you for your co-operation and patience during the downtime that ParentPay experienced. We will include a regular feature and FAQ regarding our cashless system from next week. In the meantime, if you require further information, please see our website. If you have still to register with ParentPay and require a reminder of your username and password, or if you are still experiencing problems, please contact the college office.

ALEC HUNTER LEARNING VILLAGE

The Learning Village aims to deliver adult education courses to support the learning needs of the community of East Braintree and beyond. We also provide ICT and conferencing facilities with full hospitality support tailored to suit your needs.

Course booklets will be available soon.

All enquires, enrolment and course bookings to:

Lisa Artus
Learning Village Manager
Alec Hunter Learning Village
Stubbs Lane
Braintree
Essex
CM7 3NR
Telephone: 01376 559340
Email: lisa.artus@alechunter.essex.sch.uk
Website: www.alechunter.com/learningvillage.com

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NEW STAFF

At the start of this new term, we are delighted to welcome the following new colleagues to the College:



Miss Chamberlain is joining the Leadership group as Assistant Headteacher, having previously worked at hope Valley College in Derbyshire. She will be leading on Student Achievement, covering target-setting, reporting, tracking progress and overall responsibility for KS4.

Mr Fox also joins us from Thurstable School in Tiptree as an Assistant Headteacher, with responsibility for the Quality of Teaching & Learning, including staff development, school improvement and mentoring newly qualified or trainee teachers.



Miss Bird joins the English department as a Teacher of English and Media Studies, after completing part of her training with us last year.

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NEW STAFF



Mr Booth is joins the PE team as a newly qualified Teacher of Physical Education.

Miss Wilson also completed her training with us last year and now joins the ICT department



In addition, Mrs Quilter has been added to the Main Office team as Admissions Assistant and PA Support to the Leadership Group, Miss Burns joins us as a Learning Support Assistant and Mrs Harcombe-Smee joins us as a Spanish Language Assistant.

We would like to extend a warm welcome from Alec Hunter to all of them.

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