

I hope you all enjoyed your summer break, which must now seem a long time ago. The summer results brought us a bumper 86% A* to C grades. Our focus this year is to develop further the number of students achieving 5 A* to C including English and Maths. There are maths and English schools going on over the holidays for year 11 pupils. Please make sure they attend.

We are working closely with the Primary schools and have now developed a cross-phase project on teaching and learning.

Attendance has improved this year – which is always a good sign. We look forward to working with you closely to ensure full attendance for your child. Children do not make progress in school if they have a high absence rate. In addition, parents who allow their children to stay off can face prosecution, which sadly has happened.

This term we face the prospect of colder weather and, if the weather forecast is to be believed, snow! The weather should not be an obstacle to getting your child into school. We will do our best to ensure the school remains open over the winter. Last winter we had one full-day closure because we did not have enough staff to run the school.

This has been a busy half term with the usual variety of activities going on in the Academy to support learning. I am off to Ghana over half term with twelve students, two other staff and our Lead Sponsor. I am looking forward to telling you about it when we get back.



If you wish to make a contribution to help the pupils in Ghana that we are going to be working with, please go to the website detailed here. Would you please also gift aid your donation?

www.justgiving.com/redhousegoesmadforghana

Many thanks,
Thérèse Quincey

E1 House Assembly

Just before we broke up for the summer, Mr Newman's tutor group were due to lead Earhart assembly. When Mr Newman realised he would be away that day, three of his tutor group volunteered to take over and take the assembly. This is their account of how they coped:

I felt my heart pounding as I stood in front of Earhart. Everybody was staring at me, expecting the best. The work we had prepared didn't seem to be the greatest but I was pleased with our work. It may have needed a touch up to make it better but it managed to engage the audience. The Power Point took a few days to make with extra help needed in some areas but it worked out OK. It was improved by us and the teachers but it was mainly us who worked to improve it. Meg and I did the power Point in our own time, in our breaks and lunch times. Our friend, Megan Toolin, helped us with the Power Point.

It was nerve wracking to stand in front of my entire house and talk about 'Problem Solving'. Meg and I took turns to explain each slide. The slides were quite long so we had to shorten it down. Maybe next time we will make a longer Power Point with less writing on each.

Cathryn Houghton

Well done, ladies!

The Summer Concert

Summer Concert Marked the 2nd Year of Academy Music.

July's Summer Concert saw a wealth of talent from Academy students and staff take to the stage to create a sell-out performance.

There was a breadth of music performed including rock/indie songs from 'Red Tuesday', ballads from solo singers, gospel from Red House Community Choir and even an extract of popular musical 'Annie' from Red House Youth Theatre.



This twice-yearly concert is ever increasing in popularity, with students signing up early to take part and parents keen to see what their child's performance talents. Many commented on the dramatic improvement of talent and ability in this year's concert.

Please do join us for the Music Department Christmas Concert on Wednesday 7th December at 7pm.

Miss Tindall

First Ever London Theatre Trip for Music Department

The long-awaited 3-day trip to London took place in July with 52 students taking part.

The trip recognised those who attend their instrumental lessons regularly had been a member of Red House Youth Theatre or had been in the West Side Story production.



The 52 students and 5 staff boarded the coach from Sunderland in the morning and later in the day were in the heart of London at the 'Hard Rock Cafe' and then watching 'Wicked' at the theatre.

The following two days were also filled with activities including watching 'The Lion King', visiting 'Madame Tussaud's', shopping in Covent Garden, taking a cruise on the River Thames and seeing the workings of the prestigious Drury Lane Theatre.

The students had a brilliant time and were an absolute credit to the Academy, demonstrating excellent behaviour and manners. It is hoped that this type of trip will run again to reward commitment to Music throughout the year.

Miss Tindall



Oxford

12 Y10 students got a taste of university life with a two day visit to Oxford in July. The visit included

- a guided tour of Magdalen College- old members include the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne and Foreign Secretary, William Hague
- a guided tour of the Bodleian Library (used for scenes in the Harry Potter films)
- a session of punting on the river. (The punting was maybe less successful than the rest of the visit, as the boats tended to make frequent contact with the river bank.)



Hopefully the visit will inspire our students to aim for university. Our guide at Magdalen was keen to point out that Magdalene takes a higher proportion of students from state schools and Academies than any other Oxford college.

Mr Newman

Staff fitness!!!

The 'Summer Term Staff Competition' saw the return of both the Space Hopper Challenge and Rounder's. Staff were asked to sign up to different events and teams were then drawn at random. There was a new addition to the Space Hopper Challenge with a water jump being added to the assault course. This led to an added danger and the hope that a member of staff might end up in the drink. It was a frantic affair with Mr Cooney picking up a knee injury that has so far ended his football career, after paying for a 'voltage cherry' staff strip. Due to the weather conditions we had to play 'Kwik Cricket' rather than Rounder's. This was a good contest and was a very enjoyable afternoon to end what had been a long, hard year.

Mr Bains



Bread making

For those not quite fancying a dash around on a space hopper, among other activities was an artisan bread-making master class led by Mr Davies.



Year 11 2010-2011 Examination Results

The class of 2011 left Red House Academy better qualified and better prepared for the world of college, training or work than any other Year 11 that had gone before them. More students passed more qualifications and with better grades, setting themselves up for a bright future.

A massive 86% left with 5 or more GCSEs at grade C or above. This represents a huge improvement from the 53% who achieved the same accolade the previous year and makes us the most improved school or Academy in the City by this measure.

Our most successful courses last year were wide and varied, including Business, Sport, English Literature, Health & Social Care and Hospitality & Catering. One of our students, David Crone, followed an extra 2 GCSE courses in his spare time, ably taught and supported by Mr Newman (Latin – grade B) and Mrs Russell (Law – grade A*).

We had some outstanding individual results in terms of GCSE grades from students such as David Crone (4 A*s, 6 As, 4 Bs and 6 Cs), but equally impressive performances came from Caitlan Anderson (Engineering), James Redford (Art), Ryan Smith (Business), Kirsty Swinhoe (Health & Social Care) and Scott Houghton (History). These students all exceeded their expected grades dramatically and showed us all what hard work, enthusiasm and determination can get you.

The class of 2011 have set the standard and it is now down to our current Year 11 students to better this and perform at an even higher level. The curriculum has been extended and amended in order to best meet their needs and give them every chance of success. Extra subjects have been added to the available options including Media Studies, Latin and Construction, and extra, smaller classes in English and mathematics have been set up to give priority to the two most important subjects.

I have every confidence in our students' ability and I am proud of the way in which they are facing up to the challenge and coping with the pressure. In fact, I'm already looking forward to writing a similar piece about their successes next year!

Mr Rodgers

Awards Evening

On 20th September 2011, our school held a celebration evening for students who have made outstanding progress.

The evening was introduced by KS4 Vice Principal, Mr Rodgers, who told all of the parents why they were there and what the evening was about. He then introduced Paul Callaghan, head of the Leighton group and our lead sponsor, who then congratulated all the past and present students on their achievements.

Paul Callaghan then introduced Gary Hutchinson, SAFC Conference and Activities Manager, who attended the old Hylton Red House comprehensive school and left in 1997. Gary Hutchinson stated, 'There is a 'good atmosphere in both schools. I know this as I have been and visited the new school ' We were then invited to join in a question and answer time with Gary.

After the question and answer session people started to receive awards. The people who received them were pupils from year 8 to year 11 and also some from the former year 11.

Here are some of those who received the awards;

Brad Jones year 11 most outstanding at Sports Studies

Adam Ramsay year 9 mathematics, music and science and also most outstanding

Jason Beattie most outstanding for business

David Crone DT, ICT, Science, English and History also most outstanding

Rebekah Harding most progress in P.E

Adam Harrison most outstanding in Maths.

We were then told about the Head Boy and Head Girl nominees and about who had been chosen. Callum Sullivan was introduced as Head Boy and Katie Braid as Head Girl. The Deputy Head Boy is Bradley Jones and Deputy Head Girl is Louise Roberts. Callum Sullivan and Katie Braid then made a speech.

Some SPECIAL AWARDS were given,

- the Principal's Award went to David Crone,
- the Robbie Robertson award went to Natasha Knowles,
- the Michael Tench award went to Jake Graham,
- the Leighton Group award went to Brady Jackson
- The AECOM engineering trophy went to Amy Leadbitter, Robyn Walton, Jessica Fisher and Dominique McArdle.

The pleasant evening came to an end and we thanked Mrs Crompton for organising such a wonderful awards night event.

**By Honor Morton and Dembry Smith
Press Pack**

A welcome to our new Year 7 students

We would like to say a big welcome to our new Year 7 students and their parents. For the first time this year the academy was over-subscribed with more parents seeking places for their children than we had available and so we have a total of 121 students in the year group.

Mrs Miller and I can report that the new students are settling very well into their new environment and have made an excellent start to their Red House Academy careers.

I would like to congratulate the students on this positive start and remind them that they have now set themselves a high standard which I expect to see maintained throughout their time here. Keep up the good work, Year 7!

Mr Cooney

Internationalism

We attended a meeting in the Civic Centre, Sunderland to launch our International links. The schools involved were Red House Academy, Dubmire, Bexhill and Burnside primaries. Some children were lucky enough to go to China on 1st of April 2011. They were there for 9 days. They visited the Great Wall of China and the Forbidden City. The children that went on a trip took part in maths, music and art. Two people on the trip learnt how to make Chinese dumpling and they made chocolate potato. We learned that the children in China have hardly any places to play. Their parents will do anything to give their children a good up-bringing and a good education. Miss Humphries told the other teachers and children there that we had learnt how to count to 10 in Chinese.

China suffers with very cold winters. The water takes many months to unfreeze. One of our year 7 pupils had a question for a presenter, "How is Chinese culture different to ours?" Adam replied that it was mostly the same but children were more tuned into and interested in learning.

We are linked with France and Harbin in China.

The Press Pack

Instrumentalists Reach All-Time High!

The number of students having instrumental and /or vocal lessons has reached its highest this year, with a record number of 72 students learning an instrument or having voice coaching.

This represents over 10% of the entire school, meaning that more and more pupils are taking advantage of the fantastic opportunities the Music Department has to offer.

Specialist teachers deliver lessons in:

- drum kit
- guitar
- voice
- bass guitar
- clarinet
- saxophone
- trumpet
- keyboard
- with violin lessons also due to start after half term.

There are currently spaces in trumpet and violin. All lessons are charged at £20 a term - contact Miss Tindall if you are interested.

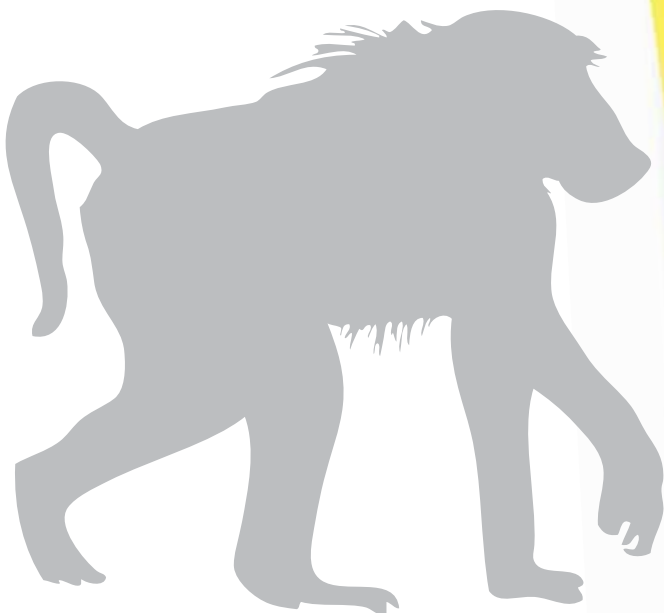
Miss Tindall



Ghana

After all the planning and preparation, the students and staff are now in Ghana. Look out for their reports and photographs in our next newsletter! And just to remind youIf you wish to make a contribution to help the pupils in Ghana that we are going to be working with, please go to the website detailed here. Would you please also gift aid your donation?

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For your diary

- The Year 11 Leavers 2011 Awards Evening is to be held on 24th November 2011 at 7.00 p.m. in the Academy.
- Christmas Concert on Wednesday 7th December at 7.00 p.m. in the Academy.