

## **Newsletter: September 2009**

May I take this opportunity to wish students, parents and staff all the very best for the new start of the academic year. It has been a real pleasure to see all of our students return to the academy looking so smart and well prepared.

A special welcome to all our new Y7 and Y7 Parents – your young people have done you proud on their first day with their excellent attitude and cheerfulness!

I am extremely proud of our achievements over the year and will be looking forward to sustained success.

### **Record GCSE Results**

Year 11 2009 have been a superb group of students throughout their school career. The majority of students achieved at least 5 A\*-C passes – towards 70% and for the first time 100% of students achieved at least a pass at GCSE. There were some superb individual performances and success stories – details of which will appear on the academy website.

Expectations for current Y11 are even higher with over 80% of students expected to achieve 5+ A\*-C passes.

### **Outstanding KS 3 Teacher Assessments**

Current Year 9 have achieved the best KS 3 Teacher Assessment levels in the history of the academy. An average of over 70% of students achieved a Level 5 or higher in English, Mathematics and Science. This represents excellent progress for the vast majority of the year. Well done!

### **OFSTED**

As the academy enters its second year it will receive a 'monitoring' visit from OFSTED to check on progress, standards and achievement. Currently the academy is on track to receive a very positive report confirming its position as one of the most improved schools in the North West and with the potential to become one of the most successful academies nationally.

## **New Learning Plaza and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Media Centre**

The academy has benefitted from an extensive new Media and Learning Plaza suite which has now been completed and is already being used by students. The facility will enhance all aspects of learning and encourage independent study. The Learning Plaza will support the developing links the academy has established with the BBC and other media partners.

## **Learning Gateway**

From September all students and staff will have access to the 'Learning Gateway'. This is an exciting development which will allow 'on-line' learning to take place within the academy and, most importantly, at home too. A community portal for access by parents will be available shortly after.

## **New Sixth Form**

The academy has opened a Sixth Form Centre for the very first time and it was fantastic to see so many previous Y11 students rejoin us to pursue their studies.

The centre offers a wide range of A Level A/S Level and vocational courses. See Ms Cheney for further details or to attend a 'taster' event to find out more.

## **Guaranteed Salford University Places Scheme**

The academy has worked very strongly with Salford University to enhance opportunities for learning within the curriculum this year. As an extension of this initiative the University will be in a position over the next two years to offer guaranteed places to students meeting entrance / course requirements. This is a very significant development for all students thinking of going to a high quality local university.

## **Early entry GCSE passes in Y8, Y9 and Y10**

We are extremely proud of all students who embarked on early entry GCSE courses – the results are very encouraging and will add to the number of GCSE passes expected at Key Stage 4.

### **Design Festival for our new facilities on Salford Quays**

A workshop for students is being held on 28<sup>th</sup> September to begin shaping the facilities for the new building on Salford Quays. The students are excited about having the opportunity to express their ideas and work with architects, designers and builders in bringing their vision to life !

Open Evening on 1st October starting at 6:00pm will give an idea of the plans, designs and work in progress.

### **Free Oasis Bus Service to and from the Hope and Quays site**

The academy Bus service is now within the locality to ensure that students have every opportunity to continue their studies with us. The Service is free to Oasis Academy students and only available to students from the academy.

The free service will continue when the Salford Quays site is established to ensure the maximum continuity of learning.

A detailed bus service route plan has been sent to all parents and students over the Summer Holidays to ensure that our young people benefit as soon as possible. The service routes will be reviewed and are subject to change in the light of demand next term so that it can be as flexible as possible.

### **Open Evening**

This year's Open evening takes place on 1<sup>st</sup> October – please watch out in the local press for details

Best wishes for the forthcoming term

Dave Terry

Principal