

September 2011



EXCELSIOR NEWS

A message from the Executive Principal

twitter 

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BEST EVER EXAMINATION RESULTS GCSE RESULTS UP BY 18%

Much improved and best ever results at GCSE, A level and KS3

Excelsior Academy is celebrating record examination results achieved by our pupils this summer at GCSE, at A Level and in the standards achieved at KS3. Since opening in September 2008 the achievements of our pupils in all these areas have soared from all previous results and are set to continue to rise.

Students at Excelsior's Sixth Form, Excelsior College, set a best ever standard in their A level results in mid August when 100% of pupils achieved at least one A level pass and 56% of pupils achieved at least one A/A* grade representing 32% of all entries.

Some pupils gained outstanding results.



Claire Clark achieved two A grades and one A*. She is going on to study Environmental Management at Northumbria University and hopes to pursue a career in conservation.

Head boy Callum Beadle-Taylor gained two A grades and one C grade. He achieved maximum possible marks in Performing Arts. Callum is going on to study Drama at Northumbria University after developing a passion for acting through Excelsior Academy's performances and productions.



GCSE 30% A*-C IN BOTH MATHEMATICS AND ENGLISH

GCSE results this year were once again the best ever as pupils achieved the floor target - 30% of pupils gaining grades A* - C for both Mathematics and English, set by the Government for all schools nationally at the start of the academic year. This demonstrates an 18 percentage points improvement from the results achieved by our first cohort. The percentage of pupils achieving grades at C or better has improved from 22% to 38% in English and from 17% to 37% in Mathematics.

There were a number of individual successes. 74 pupils achieved 10 or more GCSEs at Grade C or above with 42 pupils achieving 12 or more and 13 pupils achieving 15 or more.

The highest number of GCSE passes at grade C or above including English and Mathematics was 19, achieved by three pupils: Nicole Marshall, Felsa Diputra and Somia Shahbaz. Nicole and Felsa both achieved A grades for both Mathematics and English.



Nurliyanah Khan achieved 15 GCSE grades at C or better, including grade A in both Mathematics and English.

Aleksey Solovey gained A* in Mathematics, A* Russian and A in Art and Design.



This year our sponsor offered a scholarship place for an Excelsior pupil to study in the sixth form at Merchiston Castle School in Edinburgh. Best wishes to Ryan Johnson who gained good GCSE results, including A grade in Mathematics, and he intends to study Physics, Design Technology, Mathematics and IT.

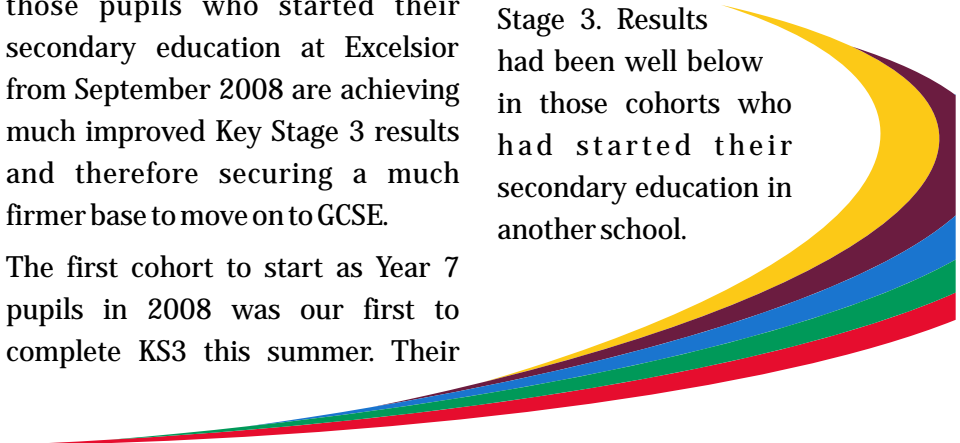


KEY STAGE 3 RESULTS POINT TO FURTHER IMPROVEMENT AT GCSE

The sharp rise in standards at GCSE is set to further increase year on year as those pupils who started their secondary education at Excelsior from September 2008 are achieving much improved Key Stage 3 results and therefore securing a much firmer base to move on to GCSE.

The first cohort to start as Year 7 pupils in 2008 was our first to complete KS3 this summer. Their

End of Key Stage 3 Results increased by 34 percentage points for Mathematics from Summer 2008 and by 30 percentage points for English. These results bring standards much closer in line with last year's national average at Key Stage 3. Results had been well below in those cohorts who had started their secondary education in another school.





This year's examination results cement another very successful year for Excelsior. An OfSTED Inspection in January 2011 praised the progress Excelsior had made in raising standards of attainment and commended the progress that pupils made in the short time that Excelsior had been open.

"rapidly improving education"

Inspectors were unanimous in judging as outstanding the quality of relationships between pupils and staff within the Academy and with our many partners and wider community. They described it as exemplary, praising the calm orderly climate of Excelsior and the behaviour and work ethic of our pupils. The Ofsted team described Excelsior as providing "rapidly improving education" and "a secure platform from which students can learn". These judgements have been borne out this summer by the improved academic standards achieved by our pupils at Key Stage 3, GCSE and A level.

"a secure platform from which students can learn"

Excelsior's success is a result of the hard work, commitment and support of our pupils, parents, staff, community, governors and sponsor.



We greatly appreciate the support of our community who offer numerous opportunities to our pupils. We are particularly grateful to two organisations, St Nicholas Trust and Reviving The Heart of The West End who have offered extremely generous financial support to 11 of our pupils who leave us to go on to university.

Reviving The Heart of The West End have offered 4 students a scholarship of £1000 a year for their three years of study and St Nicholas Trust is to support 7 students through paying the cost of their course fees for the duration of their course.



2010 - 2011 has seen many prestigious events and activities. One of the most successful, enjoyed by hundreds of pupils and parents, was The Young Americans visit in March 2011.



The following pages include some examples of the many activities our pupils have taken part in this year supported by the generous financial contribution made by our sponsor.

USA



In May a team of pupils and teachers set off for Knoxville, Tennessee in the United States of America. The team, known as The Hadrian Time Cerfers, were representing Excelsior Academy and England in the Global Finals of Destination ImagiNation, having won the National Championships.



In June staff and pupils flew off to Istanbul as part of Jefferson's Global Dimension Programme. The girls, Caitlin Teasdale, Shahd El Habib, Lauren Santos and Megan Mason, set out on a 4 day trip to discover the culture, get to know some of the locals and sample the cuisine.

Team Building



at Ullswater

Pupils attended a week-long team building experience at Ullswater. The pupils involved were engaged in many activities, and pushed themselves to limits they never knew existed, but came out with some great experiences and lots of happy memories! Activities included the run and dip, wall climbing, team building, podium climbing, night lining, plus many more.

Kingswood Activity Centre



A group of pupils attended a two day residential holiday in Kingswood Activity Centre. These brave pupils took part in various activities such as abseiling, rock climbing, 3g swing, survival, aero ball, team challenge, zip line and other activities. At the beginning many were afraid of heights, however, through encouragement they became brave enough to take on any challenge and were very proud of what they had achieved.



Pupils visit the London Theatres

London

A group of pupils visited London for three days in the Autumn to see the shows, experience London and see the sights. The aim was for pupils to carry out research, as part of a BTEC Performing Arts course. Over the course of the three days many of the famous London sights were visited including the London Eye, Buckingham Palace, Houses of Parliament and Oxford Street.

and the London Eye





Gordonstoun



As part of our programme of partnerships with schools, nationally and internationally, pupils from Excelsior Academy joined with Gordonstoun School for a week-long sailing trip around the coast of Scotland.

Mrs McAlpine, a teacher at Excelsior, said; *'It was a once in a lifetime experience for the pupils to work together and do something that they had never tried before. It was really powerful to watch the pupils' confidence develop on a daily basis.'*



We are Sailing



Circus Time

Excelsior Academy and local primary school pupils were treated to a circus performed by Excelsior's Armstrong School. What made this performance special was that every pupil was expected to take part. For many this pushed them out of their comfort zone. All of the lessons learned about team work in preparing for the big day came to fruition in a spectacular performance. One pupil said *"This experience has been unique and one I shall never forget."*





The benefits pupils gained included: confidence building, teamwork and healthy living. They learned to work together effectively, faced challenging experiences, developed new friendships and strengthened existing friendships.

Hawkhirst in Kielder

Pupils in Years 7, 8, 9, and 10 enjoyed a holiday at Hawkhirst in Kielder. Year 7 and Year 8 visited Hawkhirst in the first week of May, with Year 9 and Year 10 visiting the following week.

Working towards the Duke of Edinburgh Award



Enjoying activities at Center Parcs Nottingham

In June a number of pupils experienced a holiday in Center Parcs, Nottingham. There were lots of activities including crazy golf, raft building, high ropes, laser combat and cycling. Georgia Hendry, Year 10, particularly enjoyed her time there;

"The raft building was amazing. We were placed into two groups and whichever raft floated then that team won. The Laser Combat was great too, we were placed into the red or blue group and given three different missions to complete. Everyone was really competitive and completely involved in the game. Cycling was good fun but hard work, especially for those who had not cycled in a while or ridden a bike before!"



Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award

Pictured above are some of the pupils who achieved a Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

They worked hard over the last twelve months and gained the following qualifications:

- ▶ Level One Food Hygiene
- ▶ First Aid
- ▶ BTEC Workskills
- ▶ Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

Pupils learned to rock climb, navigate, carry out expeditions and took part in voluntary work for the Newcastle Park Ranger Service.

They have shown good humour, resilience, determination and excellent teamwork throughout the course, this was particularly evident during their final expedition in which they had to walk sixteen miles in some very poor weather conditions. Mr Carville stated, *"These pupils are a credit to the Academy and have demonstrated how much it is possible to achieve in such a short space of time."*

Bugsy MALONE

Pupils from across the Academy have been treading the boards for the annual end of year show. Bowler hats and flapper dresses filled the stage for a show-stopping performance of the classic musical Bugsy Malone.

Director of the show, Ms Nijaila from Jefferson School said: *"The end of year show is always a fantastic opportunity for pupils from across the Academy, aged from 11 to 18, to work together. This year it was very much about letting our sixth-formers go out with a bang as well as encouraging them to nurture the younger talent coming up through the Academy."*



Creative Arts Exhibition



Excelsior pupils worked alongside other pupils from; Atkinson Road Primary School, Canning Street Primary School and Haydon Bridge High School to create a variety of fantastic fashion show performances in this year's Creative Arts Exhibition.

The show included five fashion performances involving a grand total of 72 models! All pupils worked hard to create their costumes and rehearse their catwalk exhibition. Music, dance and drama were also on display. Pupils from all of the schools had a fantastic experience at Excelsior.

OPEN DAY

Excelsior Academy invites you to join us to celebrate our record breaking exam results -

- ... see and hear about our pupils' achievements during our first 3 years
- ... see and take part in our exciting lessons
- ... experience the Academy's facilities
- ... come and meet the staff and pupils

Wed 14th Sept 2011
From 3.30 - 7.00p.m.

TERM DATES 2011-12

Autumn Half Term
24th - 28th October 2011

Autumn Term Ends
Friday 16th December 2011

Spring Term commences
Tuesday 3rd January 2012

Spring Half Term
13th - 17th February 2012

Spring Term ends
Friday 30th March 2012

Summer Term commences
Monday 16th April 2012

Summer Half Term
4th June - 8th June 2012

Summer Term ends
20th July 2012

Staff Training Days
Friday 30th September 2011
Friday 25th November 2011
Friday 2nd March 2012
Friday 29th June 2012

Pupil Review Days
Thursday 24th November 2011
Friday 30th March 2012
Thursday 28th June 2012