

September 2010 EXCELSIOR NEWS

A message from the Executive Principal



It has been a pleasure to welcome our pupils and students back to Excelsior for the start of the new academic year. A special welcome to all Year 7 pupils, to new pupils in all other year groups and to all new Excelsior parents.

Pupils have made a very good start to the year. They have quickly settled to their studies, their standard of uniform is excellent and there is a very pleasant, busy atmosphere throughout the Academy.

Congratulations and well done to all of our Year 11 pupils who worked very hard to achieve an excellent set of examination results this summer. Against every Government indicator they were the best results ever achieved by a cohort of young people served by any of Excelsior's predecessor schools.

It was really good to welcome so many relieved and pleased pupils when they came to collect their results on 24th August and to share their delight in their success.

Many pupils exceeded their challenging targets. A quarter of the pupils who sat GCSE examinations this year gained five or more grades at A* - C with English and Mathematics. This included all pupils who had Key Stage 2 Average Points Scores at or above National Average and many more whose points score at the end of Key Stage 2 was below average.

More than a third of all pupils achieved an A* - C grade in English and more than a third of all pupils achieved an A* - C grade in Mathematics.

That is a rise of more than 100% on the results last year and a significant improvement on any previous results achieved by the same community.

There was also a massive improvement in the number of pupils who achieved at least 1 qualification. At 97% this was again by far the best result ever achieved by our community.

Many pupils gained in excess of 10 GCSEs including grades at A or A*

Our highest achieving pupil gained 20 GCSE grades at A* - C. Two other pupils achieved 19.

27 pupils achieved 15 or more GCSE grades at A* - C.

78 pupils gained 10 or more GCSEs at grades A* - C

8 pupils gained more than 10 GCSEs including both English and Mathematics at grades A or A*

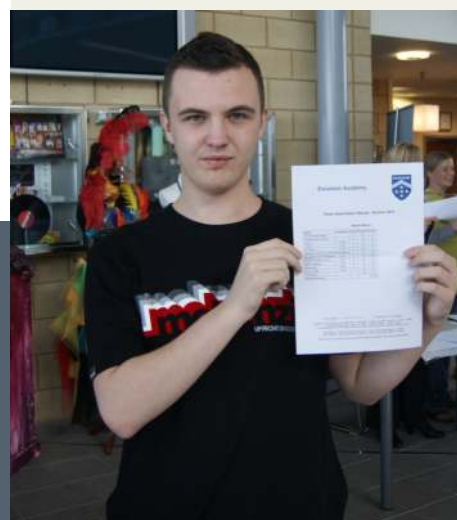
Well done to:

Petrina Dube Margarida Kanu

Daniel Kerr Callum Oakes

Firnalía Putri Louise Ross

James Rutter Andrea Scrimshaw



We are delighted to be welcoming many of last year's Year 11 to join our sixth form, Excelsior College this month. Last year saw Excelsior College grow both in the number of students as well as opportunities offered. A good range of Academic AS and A level courses as well as level 2 and level 3 vocational courses are now offered and the summer saw some very pleasing results from

courses that were offered for the first time last year. 39% of Year 13 students achieved either A grades or Distinctions.

Our sixth form students also benefited from a wide range of extra-curricular and vocational opportunities last year. Examples include opportunities to visit schools in other countries including Spain, Greece, Poland; a partnership with

Merchiston Castle School in Edinburgh; the opportunity to travel to South Africa to work with street orphans for two weeks during the world cup, as well as many other opportunities within the local and regional area. Excelsior College students are excellent role models for our younger pupils and have taken a leading role in many Academy wide events and performances.



Years 8, 9 & 10 Success in GCSE

Success at GCSE last year was not limited to Year 11 pupils. A number of younger pupils from Years 8, 9 and 10 also gained GCSE qualifications, in some cases three years before the expected age. 37 year 10 pupils achieved grade C in GCSE Science, 17 achieved at least grade C in GCSE Mathematics, 1 pupil achieved grade A in GCSE Mathematics. 37 pupils achieved GCSE qualifications in ICT, 18 achieved B grades in other subjects and 37 have at least 2 GCSEs at higher grade

passes.

5 Year 9 pupils gained a C grade in GCSE Mathematics and 1 Year 9 pupil gained a grade A in Arabic, two years before the usual age for taking these examinations.

115 of last year's 207 Year 9 pupils achieved at least 1 GCSE at grade C or above, with many achieving 2 GCSEs, two years before the usual age for taking these examinations.

79 of last year's 232 Year 8 pupils achieved at least 1 GCSE at grade C or above, three years before the usual age for taking these examinations.

I am delighted at these results which demonstrate the impact Excelsior Academy is having after only two years of operation. The vast majority of pupils have worked hard to achieve their potential grades, regardless of their expected levels and made excellent progress during their two years at Excelsior.

This progress is down to the hard work and a determination to succeed shown by both staff and pupils, supported by parents and encouraged by our sponsor and governors. Thank you to all parents, carers, governors and partners who supported our pupils this year.

Armstrong



Kingswood Residential Centre Hexham

Hadrian



Centre Parc Cumbria

extra curricular activities

While we place great importance on academic achievement and progress at Excelsior we also provide many

learning experiences for pupils to develop a wide range of skills and enjoy many extra curricular learning activities to help develop their self confidence and social skills.

Our Sponsor, Lord Laidlaw has made a very generous donation to enable our pupils to take part in many extra

curricular activities including residential trips and holidays. Pupils in all four 11 - 16 schools benefited from numerous opportunities during the summer term including the pictured residential holidays that were at least part funded by Lord Laidlaw.

Jefferson



Kielder Residential Centre

Milburn



Ullswater Outward Bound

Excelsior pupils have had the opportunity to take part in a number of productions and performances throughout the year. Some have taken place within their schools others have been Academy wide and include Remembrance Service, Christmas Production, Arts Exhibition and Fashion Show, Creative Arts Performance for families and governors, as well as this year's outstanding Annual Summer performance of Hairspray.



Many parents and families joined us for events such as the Fitness Frenzy,

Ready Steady Cook or one of the family picnics.

We were very pleased with our OfSTED inspection in February and with the positive report about our progress. Inspectors praised the progress that Excelsior is making, the quality of teaching and learning, the attitude and behaviour of our pupils and the quality of welfare support that we offer to all pupils. All Excelsior staff and governors are committed to building on this very positive start and look forward to an even better report this year.

Pupils' attendance has also significantly improved this year. Thank you to all of our parents and carers for supporting their children by making sure that they come to Excelsior on time every day. It is unfortunate that despite our best efforts there is a minority of pupils in our community who are reluctant to attend school and this can give the wrong impression about overall attendance.

The vast majority of our pupils have good attendance and parents who understand the importance of coming to school and gaining qualifications. During the summer break I was pleased to be informed that Excelsior Academy achieved the British

Council's International School Award 2010 for the quality of the work that all of its 11 - 16 schools and Excelsior College has undertaken around International Learning. To be awarded this status after only two years is a great achievement.



Throughout the year we welcomed numerous visitors to Excelsior for all kinds of reasons including Councillors; Local Authority staff; members of the community; representatives from business and industry; staff and headteachers from other schools in the local area, as well as from other parts of the region, the United Kingdom and other countries. All visitors commented on the pleasant, friendly, supportive feel to Excelsior, the good relationships between pupils and pupils, as well as between pupils and staff. They also



commented on the good behaviour of our pupils, their good standard of uniform and their good manners. We are very proud of our pupils. The vast majority are a credit to themselves, their families, and Excelsior. Thank you to all of our parents and carers for supporting us with these important values. I am looking forward to another successful year.

P.Marshall
Executive Principal



TERM DATES 2010-11

Autumn Half Term
25th - 29th October 2010

Autumn Term Ends
Friday 17th December 2010

Spring Term commences
Tuesday 4th January 2011

Spring Half Term
21st - 25th February 2011

Spring Term ends
Thursday 15th April 2011

Summer Term commences
Tuesday 3rd May 2011

Summer Half Term
30th May - 3rd June 2011

Summer Term ends
22nd July 2011

Staff Training Days
Friday 1st October 2010
Friday 26th November 2010
Friday 4th March 2011

Pupil Review Days
Thursday 25th November 2010
Friday 15th April 2011
Friday 1st July 2011